

# THE PINK

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65p

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Daily Echo

## Non league special



News and views on pages 9-17

# THE JOY OF SIX!

James Warde-Prowse celebrates with Fraser Forster after Saints' 1-0 win at Swansea.

Long hits winner at Swansea as Forster keeps it clean again - P2-3

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# Swansea City 0 Saints 1

# Saints storm into the top six



Ryan Bertrand in a close encounter during Saints' win at The Liberty Stadium.

**SAINTS** moved into the top six of the Barclays Premier League with a 1-0 win at Swansea.

Shane Long scored the only goal and Fraser Forster amazingly kept his sixth successive clean sheet since returning to the Saints side after 10 months out through injury.

The in-form Saints had won four and drawn one of their previous five games and Long's 69th-minute header secured another three points for Ronald Koeman's side as Swansea lost for the first time under Francesco Guidolin.

Swansea were accommodating hosts as they created little of note, but they were left to rue referee Jonathan Moss' decision not to award a penalty in the final minute when Saints substitute Maya Yoshida tangled with Alberto Paloschi.

## Full value

Saints were full value for their victory and Forster has now gone past the 500-minute mark without conceding.

The game's decisive moment arrived in the final quarter when Long, finding space in between defenders, was granted the freedom of the penalty area to convert James Ward-Prowse's cross for his ninth goal of the season.

Even then, Lukasz Fabianski might have kept the ball out of his net but he fumbled it over the line to end Swansea's unbeaten run at four games.

Saints might have had a case for already being ahead as Graziano Pelle - without a goal since netting against Bournemouth at the beginning of November - had seen his 57th-minute effort disallowed for Jose Fonte dislodg-



We don't believe it! Saints rue a close call.

## TEAM CHECK

● **Sadio Mane** was relegated to the subs bench as Saints chased a sixth successive clean sheet at Swansea's Liberty Stadium.

● **The Senegalese international** had not scored in his last 12 games, with his last league goal coming at Anfield towards the end of October.

● **Matt Targett** was brought back into the line-up, after missing the win against West Ham through injury.

● **Oriol Romeu** was recalled into the centre of midfield with Victor Wanyama - last season's match-winner at Swansea - starting a five-game ban for three red cards this term.

● **Steven Davis** and **James Ward-Prowse** were also

recalled in a new-look midfield, with Cedric and Maya Yoshida on the bench.

● **£4m striker Charlie Austin** was left still waiting for his first Saints start, on the bench.

● **Saints:** Forster, van Dijk, Fonte, Bertrand, Steven Davis, Ward-Prowse, Claessie, Romeu, Targett, Long, Pelle. Subs: Cedric Soares, Yoshida, Mane, Tadic, Juanmi, Stekelenburg, Austin.

● **Swansea:** Fabianski, Rangel, Fernandez, Williams, Taylor, Ayew, Cork, Britton, Routledge, Sigurdsson, Paloschi. Subs: Amat, Ki, Fer, Nordfeldt, Gomis, Naughton, Barrow.

● **Referee:** Jon Moss (W Yorkshire)

ing the ball from Fabianski's grasp.

It was a close call whether Fabianski had complete control of the ball but he was relieved to see Moss intervene after Pelle stabbed the ball home.

Both teams came into the game on the back of good

form, but it was Saints who settled quickly and looked the more confident side.

Pelle's volley forced Fabianski into a goal-line stop and Oriol Romeu and Ryan Bertrand could not control their shots from distance.

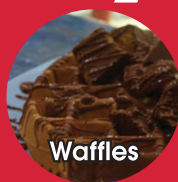
Swansea tried to get both their full-backs, Angel Ran-



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Shane Long heads Saints' winner at The Liberty Stadium

gel and Neil Taylor, forward but Saints were able to smother home attacks at source by employing a successful high press.

Andre Ayew brought a comfortable save from Forster but the first period had reached its final minute when the Saints goal was genuinely threatened.

Paloschi helped on Rangel's cross to the far post and Swansea would have wanted no-one other than Gylfi Sigurdsson to be on the end of it after scoring five goals in his previous six games.

But Sigurdsson blazed his volley over and Swansea were almost punished for the miss in the final attack of the half moments later.

Fernando Fernandez allowed Steven Davis' cross to clear and Long was perfectly placed to open the scoring, but the Republic of Ireland international headed straight at Fabianski.

Swansea's susceptibility in the air almost cost them from Bertrand's second-half cross but Romeu - recalled to the starting XI with Victor Wanyama starting a five-game suspension - got in the way of the lurking Pelle and his header was timid.

Pelle was then denied by Moss' whistle and Saints almost paid the price when Sigurdsson's free-kick found Ashley Williams.

But the Swansea skipper could not provide the telling touch after getting goal side of Virgil van Dijk and a late flurry following Long's strike failed to ease their relegation concerns.

● Manchester United boss Louis van Gaal has admitted the club's most likely route to next season's Champions League is to win the Europa League.

United's 2-1 defeat at struggling Sunderland in Saturday's early kick-off left them six points adrift of the teams ahead of them before the bulk of the latest round of fixtures, and a top-four finish via the Barclays Premier League now



Shane Long celebrates with the Saints fans after heading the winner. Pictures by Stuart Martin.

looks a distant possibility.

Indeed, Van Gaal, who has spent recent weeks fending off speculation that Jose Mourinho is being lined up to replace him, believes they may have to look elsewhere for their golden ticket with their Europa League campaign resuming in Denmark against Saints' conquerors Midtjylland on Thursday evening.

He said: "It will be very difficult. It is still possible, but it is very difficult. The way with the Europa League is easier, I think, but also not so easy because there also you have a fantastic European level in that cup, so you have to fight for it.

"You can easily say 'okay, the other way' - but also you have

to show your capacity, in every match, you have to show it and we didn't do that today."

Van Gaal's position becomes more difficult with every setback, and he knows the consequences of failing to make it into the Champions League could be costly.

Asked if the club's presence in Europe's elite competition was the bare minimum, he said: "Yes - but that's also our aim, so you cannot close your eyes from that.

"Today it was very disappointing because we needed to win this game because of the big gap between the top four. We want to be there and now it will be very difficult."

United started dreadfully at the

Stadium of Light and fell behind to Wahbi Khazri's third-minute free-kick, which travelled across a crowded penalty area without anyone making contact and crept inside David de Gea's far post.

Anthony Martial's deft 39th-minute finish got them back on level terms - but they were second-best after the break and were undone when De Gea could only help defender Lamine Kone's powerful downward header into his own net.

Van Gaal's misery was completed by the loss of full-back Matteo Darmian, who will be missing for several weeks after dislocating a shoulder.

## Koeman: We Maya have got lucky at the death

RONALD Koeman has revealed that Saints may have got lucky in their 1-0 win over Swansea at the Liberty Stadium today.

The Saints boss admitted that his side might have got a slice of good fortune when the struggling Swans had a late penalty shout turned down, writes **PETER HOWARD.**

Substitute Maya Yoshida collided with Alberto Paloschi in the box, but big appeals were waved away by referee Jonathan Moss.

"We were lucky in one situation," said Koeman. "Yes or no with the penalty? I don't know.

"But what I saw was that the first is a fault for Gomis against Fonte and after that the situation of the penalty. I have to see it back. I don't know.

"With the decision of the referee, sometimes you need a little bit of luck to win the game."

Apart from that flash point, Koeman felt his side looked comfortable as they cruised to their fifth win in six games and into the top six.

Saints goalkeeper Fraser Forster also clinched a sixth successive clean sheet in Wales, meaning he has now gone 633 minutes without conceding a goal.

"It's not normal to have six clean sheets in a row but we're working hard. We have got defensive organisation," said a pleased Koeman.

"It's difficult to create open chances against us. We showed that today. The team is looking very comfortable."

Koeman, who has now tallied 100 points as Saints manager in his season-and-a-half at the club, wasn't happy with the first-half performance.

"We didn't play well in the first half. Our ball possession was not that quality to create more," he said.

"We had one big chance of Shane Long in the first-half - the header, a free header.

"The second-half we had better control on the game. Better domination in the game. Better football and a great goal.

"After that, of course, Swansea tried to do everything offensively with substitutes.

"But it was good defending of Southampton. We looked very comfortable.

"The three points are well deserved," he added.

"The great attitude of the players and a good win again today."



13 Feb 2016 - Photo Stuart Martin

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# AFC BOURNEMOUTH 1 STOKE CITY 3

## Cosmopolitan Stoke romp to league double over Cherries

**CHERRIES** were sent spinning to defeat by a European treble as Stoke City completed a Premier League double over them.

Goals from Frenchman Giannelli Imbula, Dutchman Ibrahim Afellay and Spaniard Joselu saw the Potters follow up their 2-1 win at the Britannia Stadium in September.

And although Matt Ritchie came off the bench to reduce the arrears after 57 minutes, the hosts were unable to make any further inroads.

Cherries went behind when recent signing Imbula netted with a stunning 25-yard volley to open the scoring after nine minutes.

And Afellay doubled the Potters' lead just seven minutes after the break with a rasping strike from a Jonathan Walters cut-back.

It got worse for Eddie Howe's team when Stoke substitute Joselu planted a cross from Xherdan Shaqiri past Artur Boruc to make it 3-0 after 55 minutes.

But Ritchie's strike after 57 minutes gave Cherries hope of staging a comeback, the winger registering his third Premier League goal from a Charlie Daniels cross.

However, despite a vastly-improved second-half showing from Cherries, they were unable to salvage a point.

Boss Howe made one change from the 2-0 defeat to Arsenal with Junior Stanislas returning to the starting line-up at the expense of Ritchie, who dropped to the bench.

Walters returned from a virus in place of Marko Arnautovic, a constant thorn in the side when Cherries lost 2-1 at the Britannia Stadium in September.

Imbula, Stoke's club record £18.3million signing from Porto last month, started his first away game for the Potters since his move.

Although Cherries had plenty of early possession, they were rocked when the visitors opened the scoring through Imbula after just nine minutes.

The Frenchman seized on Simon Francis's attempted clearance and fired a sumptuous volley past Cherries goalkeeper Boruc from 25 yards.

Walters found the side netting before referee Graham Scott finally reached for his book after 20 minutes, showing a yellow card to Mame Birman Diouf for his persistent fouling.

Shaqiri, who had been involved in the build up to Stoke's opener, saw his thunderous drive beaten away by Boruc midway through the first half.

Cherries' first meaningful effort came in the 27th minute when a pile-driver from Francis was deflected for a corner.

Boruc pouched a left-foot strike from Walters after the Republic of Ireland striker had been picked out by Diouf's ball over the top.

Marc Pugh was booked for an innocuous challenge on Shaqiri before the pint-sized Swiss rolled his shot past the post after being put through.

A cross-shot from Charlie Daniels



Stoke City's Joselu scores his side's third goal of the game AT Bournemouth.



Joselu celebrates scoring for Stoke at The Vitality Stadium.

was pushed away by Stoke goalkeeper Jack Butland before a major talking point at the end of the first half saw Benik Afobe go to ground following a coming together with Marc Muniesa.

Pugh and Gosling were sacrificed at the break with Josh King and Ritchie coming on to replace them, while Stoke also made a change with Dionatan Teixeira replacing Muniesa.

King went close to scoring with his first touch, but after latching on to Andrew Surman's hooked pass, his close range effort was saved by Butland's outstretched left leg. And the follow up from Ritchie was charged

down.

Afellay doubled Stoke's lead seven minutes after the break when he rifled home an unstoppable drive from the edge of the box after being teed up by Walters.

And Cherries were left with a mountain to climb after substitute Joselu came off the bench to head a third goal past Boruc following a cross from Shaqiri.

Ritchie threw them a lifeline when he reduced the arrears on 57 minutes, the winger sweeping a delightful volley past Butland from just inside the 18-yard box after getting on the end of a Daniels centre.

Afobe sliced horribly wide after a Junior Stanislas corner had been flicked on, while Ritchie was inches from making it 3-2 but could not convert at the far post.

Stanislas was unable to get a telling touch to King's driven cross and, despite enjoying the better of the second half, Cherries failed to find a way past a stubborn Stoke back-line. Cherries: Boruc, Smith, Francis, Cook, Daniels, Stanislas (Iurbe, 74), Gosling (Ritchie, h-t), Surman, Arter, Pugh (King, h-t), Afobe. Unused subs: Grabban, Distin, O'Kane, Federici (g/k). Booked: Pugh, Surman, Francis, Arter. Stoke: Butland, Johnson (Joselu, 53), Pieters, Wolscheid, Muniesa (Teixeira, h-t), Whelan, Imbula, Shaqiri, Afellay (Ireland, 85), Walters, Diouf.

## Alresford hit for 7 in the mud

### WHITCHURCH UTD 7 ALRESFORD TOWN 1

Alresford's relegation problems in the Sydenhams Wessex League deepened with a crushing 7-1 defeat by Whitchurch in the Longmeadow mud.

It cast the Magpies further adrift in the danger zone, writes Mike Vimpany.

Two goals in three minutes in the opening quarter pointed Whitchurch to a vital win in their own battle to draw clear of the danger positions.

They opened the scoring in the tenth minute when RYAN LAMBERT caught Alresford keeper Ben Kneller off his line with a cheeky lob from 35 yards.

Three minutes later Scott Hassell picked out Rudi Plummer free on the left-hand side of the box and he unselfishly rolled a pass into the path of JACK MCCARTHY to make it 2-0.

Alresford, who attacked continuously during the game, were desperately unlucky not to score themselves when Rian Jimo-Otero created a chance for himself on the edge of the box – but his shot struck the inside of the upright and bounced into the grateful hands of goalkeeper Brad Snelling.

But soon after Whitchurch scored again when John Mulhearn was penalised for hand-ball and PLUMMER drilled home the resulting spot kick.

Whitchurch forged into a 4-0 lead in the 26th minute when Jarvis seized on a poor clearance and set up DANNY PHILLIPS to score.

Soon after an astonishing miss by Plummer, Whitchurch were twice denied by the woodwork – initially when Yates hit the bar and then Aaron Bloxall struck the outside post.

Seven minutes in to the second half PHILLIPS scored his second and Whitchurch's fifth.

Alresford's best chance came from a set piece.

Ben Thomson chipped a free kick into the goalmouth where Whitchurch's David Parry almost put through his own goal, forcing Snelling into a superb finger-tip save.

Alresford's bad luck continued as John Howard unleashed a tremendous shot only for Snelling to make a breath-taking save.

Whitchurch responded with a sixth goal with Jarvis crossing from the right and picking out HASSELL to score with a header at the far post.

Eventually Alresford got some joy with THOMSON replying with a delightful left-foot free kick into the top corner.

As underfoot conditions deteriorated into a real slog, Whitchurch scored a seventh through JARVIS.



# Wessex League: Team Solent 3 Hamworthy 1

## Students climb into Wessex top 7 after Hammers victory

**TEAM Solent climbed to seventh in the Sydenhams Wessex Premier Division with a 3-1 win over Hamworthy United at Test Park.**

The hosts swarmed all over the Dorset club straight from kick-off and took less than four minutes to go in front, *writes WENDY GEE.*

Ex-Sholing forward Tobi Adekunle had felt aggrieved after being blatantly pulled back in the opening exchanges, but soon exacted his revenge.

The Southampton Solent University side opened up the Hammers with a fast-paced attack – skipper Jesse Waller-Lassen sweeping the ball right to left across the area and **ADEKUNLE** finding the far corner with the aid of a deflection.

Hamworthy's goal lived a charmed life as dangerous low deliveries by Waller-Lassen and Adekunle skidding across the six-yard box and Jemal Wiseman denied by keeper Gerard Benfield just prior to the goal.

With 15 minutes gone Waller-Lassen was denied by a superb tackle by Nick Swann as he shaped to shoot from the edge of the area. Then the Solent skipper, who has been on trial at Yeovil Town, pulled a smart save out of Benfield low to his left from Adekunle's assist.

Solent's pace and movement was causing the visitors headaches and the home side went close again after 20 minutes when Myles Keizer-Burrows' header drifted just past the far post.

The visitors kept working hard but Solent keeper Dion Gibbs had little to do – Hamworthy's first real shot of note sent comfortably over by Swann following good work by Stef Penney.

The Dorset outfit's best chance arrived on 36 minutes when Penney's free-kick, awarded for Ellis White's foul on tricky little customer Paddy Hester, bent inches wide of the far upright with the keeper beaten.

The visitors had come right back into the game, but they needed another good save by Benfield on 40 minutes after the muscular Adekunle had held off defender Jordan Cole to get another shot away.

**Half-time:  
TEAM SOLENT 1  
HAMWORTHY 0**

James Taylor's Students began the second-half back on the front foot but Benfield was again equal to it when Wiseman let fly from distance.

The Hammers keeper then left his goal wide open to attend to urgent matters on the very edge of his area. Waller-Lassen attempted to cash-in



**Toni Adekunle, red, in action for Team Solent against Hamworthy United**

but he over-hit his shot wide of the gaping net.

Solent kept pressing and Benfield was soon in action again, turning away Waller-Lassen's 18-yard shot for a corner.

They played it short and this time **WALLER-LASSEN** unleashed a fierce shot from the right of the area that bypassed the keeper's outstretched legs as it found the far corner for his 19th goal of the season.

That should have made it for the students but, on 73 minutes, Ham-

worthy halved the deficit from the penalty spot.

Sam Byles caught Hester with a clumsy challenge and the Hammers' No. 10 sent the kick low to Gibbs' left. Hamworthy took a couple of bookings stopping Adekunle and Waller-Lassen in full flight.

From the second incident, Waller-Lassen delivered a sublime free-kick deep to the back stick where Martin **JOHNSON** prodded home for 3-1.

Johnson and Waller-Lassen went close to adding to Hamworthy's mis-

ery before, with three minutes remaining Hammers' Sam Davidson went straight through the back of Ade Olumuyiwa and left the Solent man needing treatment.

There was still time for the busy Benfield to pull off yet another excellent save from sub Steve Black and for Keizer-Burrows to hit the base of the Hamworthy post with a header.

**Full-time  
TEAM SOLENT 3  
HAMWORTHY 1**

### SATURDAY'S NON LEAGUE RESULTS

**VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH**  
Eastbourne Borough 3  
Weston SM 3  
Havant pp Chelmsford  
Maidenhead 1  
Wealdstone 1  
Maidstone 2 Gosport  
Borough 1  
Margate 2 Basingstoke 1  
Oxford City 1 Ebbsfleet 1  
St Albans 2 Concord  
Rangers 2  
Sutton 1 Bath City 1  
Truro pp Dartford  
Whitehawk pp Hemel  
Hempstead  
**EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE**

**Premier Division:**  
Bedworth 4 Cambridge  
City 3, Bideford pp  
Merthyr Town,  
Biggleswade 4 Stratford  
3, Chippenhams 0  
Kettering 2, Cirencester 1  
Frome 1, Dorchester 1  
Slough 2, Dunstable 0 K  
Lynn 2, Histon 0 St Neots  
0

Hungerford pp  
Weymouth, Leamington 0  
Hitchin 1, Paulton Rovers  
pp Poole Town, Redditch  
1 Chesham 0

**Division One South & West:** AFC Totton pp  
Cinderford, Banbury 3  
North Leigh 1, Burnham  
0 Slimbridge 2, Didcot 1  
Winchester City 2,  
Larkhall pp Tiverton,  
Shortwood 2 Bishops  
Cleeve 0, Swindon Sup 3  
Marlow 1, Taunton pp  
Bashley, Wantage 0  
Evesham 5, Wimborne 0  
Mangotsfield 3, Yate 1  
Bridgwater 0  
**SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE**

**Premier Division:**  
Bemerton HH 0 Folland 0,  
Team Solent 3  
Hamworthy 1,  
Whitchurch 7 Alresford 1  
All other games  
postponed.

**Division 1:** Alton 1 Tadley  
Calleva 2, Downton 1 AFC  
Stoneham 6  
All other games  
postponed.

**HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE**

**Premier:** QK Soton 1  
Overton 1, Winchester  
Castle 1 Paulsgrove 2.  
All other games  
postponed

**Division 1:** Andover  
Lions 4 Michelmersh 0  
All other games  
postponed.

**DREW SMITH GROUP SOUTHAMPTON LEAGUE**

**Premier:** Hedge End  
Town 4 Braishfield 2  
Veterans 0-0:  
Winchester OB 3 Hamble  
Club 3

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# SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

## I'm a fan who is left feeling like a cow ...



**WITH yet another impressive win against West Ham, Saints edged closer to improving on last season's end of season finish.**

With Victor Wanyama's third red card of the season, Saints were under huge pressure defensively and the win maintained our astonishing run of clean sheets.

The weekend saw Leicester beat Manchester City 3-1 away from home and open up a five point gap at the top.

With Arsenal and City spluttering, and Manchester United and Chelsea in turmoil, there has never been a better time for a club like Leicester to win the title.

Like most Saints fans, I've always dreamt that in a perfect storm like this it would be our club that took advantage and win the title.

Sadly, it's never going to happen.

It could have, but the top five piranhas would never have allowed us to do so and instead we saw the best teams we've had in years obliterated by big money transfers.

Leicester have been lucky.

Not in their games, but in the way the fixtures have fallen and allowed them to slip under the radar without attracting attention come the January window.

It leaves you wondering how Saints would have done had we not lost so many players.

Much fuss has been made of the Liverpool £77 matchday ticket.

Liverpool fans staged a 77th minute mass exodus in demonstration against this particular ticket. It may just be me but I don't remember Liverpool fans complaining about ticket prices when they were doing well.

The reason behind that is when your team's doing well, there's always someone else ready to take your seat if you don't want it.

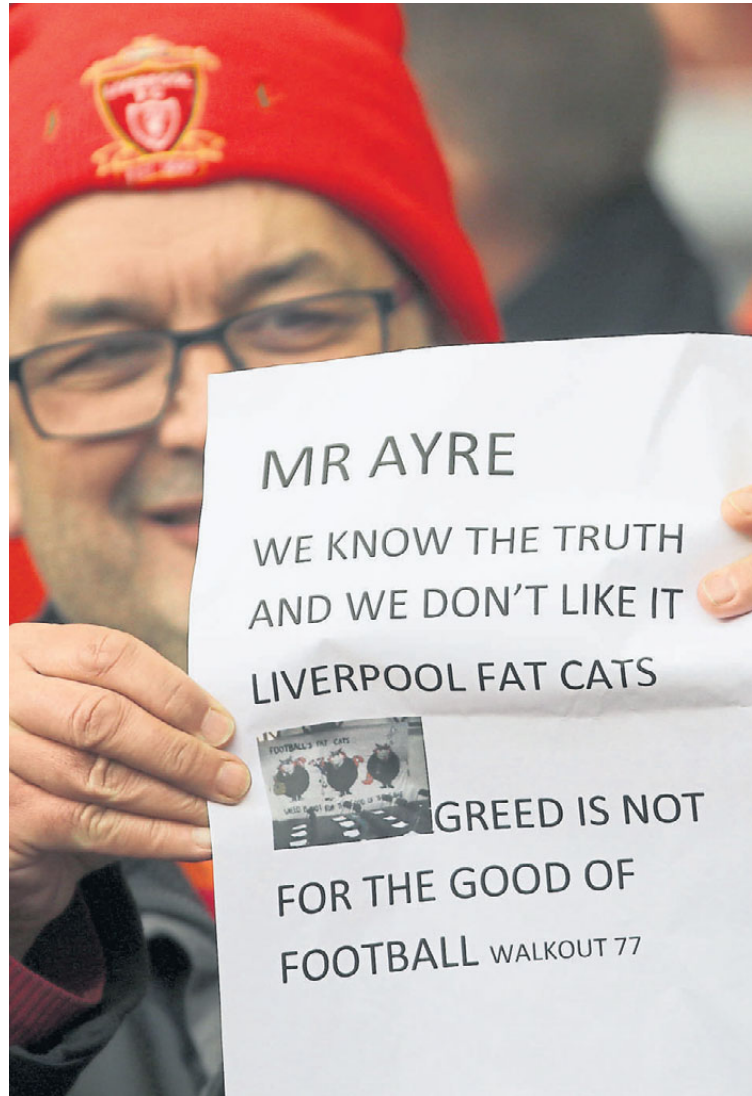
When things aren't going so well, that demand surprisingly lessens and the demonstrations start.

What I find astonishing is that Arsenal have had the £1,000 season ticket for some time now, and yet it takes a £77 matchday ticket before anyone demonstrates?

That Emirates ticket costs the Arsenal season ticket holder £55 a game. Admittedly, it's £22 a game less than Liverpool were proposing, but surely when you are faced with paying £1,000 a year just for your seat at a football match then alarm bells wouldn't just be sounding ... they would be deafening.

It's at times like this when you have to look at yourself and admit that you've played your part in all of this.

It's perfectly timed that it should be Liverpool fans, of all people, that complained



**A Liverpool fan with a letter of protest to chief executive Ian Ayre over ticket prices at Anfield.**

about ticket prices.

Fans, above all other groups, place huge pressure on boards to get the players in and make their club competitive.

The downside of that is your club is under constant pressure to get the bigger names in and to improve the squad.

That seldom comes with a reduced budget.

Ask yourself, do you have that annoying mate who always pops up, in any argument about league form/transfer windows, and thinks the club should "break the bank" and

sign player x or player y?

How many Saints fans have forgotten Dani Osvaldo? Gaston Ramirez?

Two high profile players who were unmitigated disasters at St Mary's?

So often, those sort of transfers involve heavy wages and more often than not that impacts on player wages, and not the way you'd hope.

A player arriving with a higher wage will always prompt other players, who may outperform him, to request a pay increase....

From there on in, you're in Pompey wage bill territory.

With Sky money being what it is, you'd be fully within your rights or ask why some of that vast television money doesn't filter down to you, the fan.

Let's face it, you're the ones paying money week in, week out. Why shouldn't your ticket money decrease a bit because of revenue generated, indirectly, by the fans who watch it from the comfort of their own home?

I've never accepted the argument that a fan that pays a Sky Sports bill supports their team as much as one who buys their ticket and goes week in week out.

The Sky money really should help decrease those fans costs rather than increasing footballer wages.

How can a club ask more and more from fans in terms of ticket prices and yet also receive ever increasing satellite money from Sky?

It does leave you feeling like a cow, having your udders continually jerked backwards and forwards as the club ekes every drop of milk out of you that they can.

Don't get me wrong, as a Saints fan I'm forever grateful to the current board and the extraordinary job they've done transforming Southampton FC into a club that is now firmly established as one of the top teams in England.

That sort of transformation doesn't come cheap.

But the board has to remember that a lot of the fans that support the Saints in the Premier League were the same ones that supported the club when it was on its knees in league One. Some them now can't afford to go because of Premier League prices.

Loyalty is a two way street. Much has been said in regards to loyalty and that football clubs can't be run without the loyal fans that carry it through the good times and the bad.

Many clubs play on themes such as loyalty and "being in that number" in their promotional advertising.

The moment you use that sort of advertising, it's perfectly acceptable for the fans to expect the club to be equally loyal to them.

To put it into perspective, when Saints were yet to go into administration, Saints fans were still buying season tickets, still not knowing if the club would even be there next season.

That sort of loyalty deserves respect, if nothing else.

I've said it enough over the years, but football can't continue to receive ever increasing revenue from Sky. Sooner or later clubs will need to rely on you, the average football fan, to pay their way.

Modern day football clubs need to be reminded that as well as being customers, we're human beings too and it will never be right for a family to pay over £100 just to watch a game of football at St Mary's.

One day football may realise that the problems it creates now will come back and bite it in the no so distant future....



# Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football

## Giroud could stop Arsenal being 'great'

**AS with almost every other season, the January transfer window came and went with Arsene Wenger keeping his wallet safely tucked away in his pocket.**

Well, strictly that may not be true, but the £7m purchase of Mohamed Elneny from Basel is a relative drop in the ocean in monetary terms for a club like Arsenal.

Despite many fans clamouring for a big-name signing to be brought in, a major transfer to make their competitors sit up and notice, one to give them the edge in the most open and winnable Premier League in recent memory, the frugal manager once again shied away from any mid-season spending.

And perhaps nowhere else is the verdict more split between Gooners than the need for a world class striker.

Some claim that Arsenal will never truly be a force to be reckoned with without a talismanic front-man, while others remain assured that they already have a 'top, top' striker in Olivier Giroud.

### Detractors

Those in favour of the Frenchman can point to his link-up play, aerial ability and consistent (if modest) goal return, whilst his detractors will highlight a lack of pace, a poor work ethic and the inconsistent nature of his performances.

And therein lies the main problem with Giroud – he may look 'world class' in a particular game or run of games – his hat-trick against Olympiakos or brace against Liverpool this season testament to this – but then he'll disappear for long stretches, the goals drying up quicker than his hair gel.

His ability to link up play is out-weighted by his ability to 'go missing' all too frequently; a truly elite striker remains a constant threat and presence for entire games, every game. Following his blank against Bournemouth recently, the Gallic striker has now gone 420 minutes without a goal.

### Buzzing

'But all strikers have droughts' I hear you cry. Sure, but a persistent goal-threat almost always remains. Take Sergio Aguero at Man City, for example – on the rare occasion he fails to score, he remains a constant threat to the opposition defence, buzzing around, making runs and getting in behind.

He may not be blessed with great pace, but aside from the odd near-post run you often see him score from, his movement can be lacking. His finishing, when he's in the mood, is great but you get the feeling that a striker playing for a club like Arsenal should be scoring with more regularity than



Olivier Giroud, right, in action against Saints defender Jose Fonte at The Emirates earlier this month.

the 29-year-old does.

Indeed, looking at other 'world class' strikers, the minutes per goal ratio held by Giroud is somewhat lacking.

Giants of the European game such as Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Karim Benzema and Robert Lewandowski average around a goal a game, or better.

Similarly Gonzalo Higuain or Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, both mentioned as possible targets for the North Londoners in the past, are lethal.

Of course the Premier League is a tougher league to play and score in, but the aforementioned Aguero maintains an average just the other side of a goal every 90 minutes.

In truth, Giroud's Premier League ratio sits at a similar level to youngsters Harry Kane and Romelu Lukaku.

Even league newcomer Odion Ighalo has similar statistics, whilst form players like Leicester's Jamie Vardy or Leverkusen's Javier Hernandez are significantly better.

### Sporadic brilliance

The point I'm trying to make here is that, whilst Giroud is unquestionably a good striker, able to finish well and show sporadic brilliance, his inconsistent nature and lack of real menace means he will never truly be a great.

Club legend Thierry Henry recently back-

tracked on his pre-season claims that Arsenal would win nothing with Giroud leading the line, claiming that he had discovered a consistency in his game. That came just after his brace against Liverpool and just before his current goal drought.

Sure, Arsenal have goal-scorers all over the pitch but they also have suppliers all over the pitch.

A truly World-class striker would score 20+ goals every season in the league alone and, whilst the Frenchman may be slowly improving during his time in North London, he will never really be a truly great player, a factor that may stop this talented Arsenal side from becoming a truly great one.



## Adam Rant



The week's big talking points  
with ADAM LEITCH

# Ticket shambles a stain on division

Huge collective effort needed to fight price rises

**FOOTBALL fans are often blinded by passion, but maybe the tide is going to turn.**

Though sympathy for journalists is understandably in somewhat short supply in general, the fickleness of football supporters is something that can often astound.

Often very intelligent people, who have a professional job Monday-Friday, a respectable background and a lovely family, lose their minds when it comes to their club.

Of course, we all understand that football is an outlet, it is escapism from the mundanity of everyday life and a flicker of enjoyment on a Saturday afternoon, or whenever Sky deems fit to set the kick-off time for.

Nothing wrong with that at all. There is no more or less than merit to being a football fan than to supporting a club or individual in any sport, to watching movies, to reading books, to competing in sports, hobbies and activities etc.

There is a certain passion and zeal though that does appear to be reserved for football supporters, whereby they can so often lose all context of the situation.

Adam Rant, for example, has on numerous occasions down the year's written stories that provoked a furious reaction for being too negative at the same time as another fan complains it is too positive.

That is the nature of football. It is passion.

As part of this passion supporters have been prepared to take the path they have been led down, being told the Premier League is the best in the world and therefore that costs.

At some clubs, and for the record I exempt the current Southampton management from this, fans are seen simply as customers.

That is a shameful state of affairs, because football is about so much more – its history, tradition and community, built over generations.

And yet, despite that, supporters have gone along with it, driven by loyalty and the alternative – a future without following their beloved club.

Maybe the protest over ticket prices at Liverpool is going to empower supporters to say enough is enough.

Football clubs are businesses, but the Reds fought back.

They won their battle, but the war cannot be confined simply to them.



Liverpool fans exit Anfield on 77 minutes in a protest over ticket price rises

You cannot for one moment say that with a TV deal worth £8.4 billion over three years coming into play at the start of next season, that it is necessary to ramp up ticket prices. You just cannot buy that.

The shambles over the wild

variation in away ticket prices is a stain on the division.

Whilst TV is now king because of the money, while it may be a little too late to stop some things, ticket prices, basically the thing that affects the people who actually go to

the games, the community, are up for grabs.

It will take a huge collective effort to fight this and it will be fascinating to see whether blind passion takes hold again, or if enough is enough.

## Leicester could win

RONALD Koeman is right – Leicester really could win the league.

Regardless of what happens against Arsenal this weekend they will be top of the table with 12 games to go.

It would be wrong to brand their run-in from there as easy in any way, because when the pressure is seriously on, nothing is easy, but it's about as good as you could ask for in their situation.

Only Manchester United sit in wait as a serious top four contender, while other tough games such as Saints, West Ham and Everton are all at home, with Chelsea away on the final day.

The huge benefit Leicester have is that they only need to worry about the Premier League, while all their rivals have other competitions taxing their time and efforts.

You can see a situation whereby a couple of dodgy league results, but progress in, say, the Champions League, could see a shift of focus from other teams, enhancing Leicester's case still further.

Leicester have only one goal.

If they can stay fit and healthy they have every chance.



Jamie Vardy

## A risk too far for TV?

THE Jump, a reality TV programme, has been on the back pages of the newspapers due to a number of high profile sports stars getting injured.

The premise of the Jump appears to be that celebrities hurl down a very steep slope on skis before a lip at the end shoots you high up into the air before your momentum runs out and gravity kicks in.

There seems to be some surprise that these ski jump amateurs are getting hurt.

What is next in the pursuit of ratings by risking the health of others? Maybe we could have celebrity human targets trying to avoid getting shot in the biathlon. What could possibly go wrong?



# Pele joining Totton as part of exciting Le Tissier link-up

**AFC TOTTON fans never thought they would see the day when Pele was coaching at the Testwood Stadium.**

But seeing will be believing next season when Pele – the one from Cape Verde, not the legendary Brazilian! – will be putting young Stags footballers through their paces, *writes Wendy Gee*.

As part of an exciting link-up with Matt Le Tissier Natural Coaching (MLTNC), former Saints and West Brom defender Pele – real name Pedro Miguel Cardoso Monteiro – will manage AFC Totton's under-16s.

It is part of an arrangement that will strengthen the Southern League club's youth production line while providing a pathway for MLTNC academy youngsters to progress into the semi-pro game.

Andy Straker, chairman of AFC Totton, explained: "This is an excellent opportunity for both club and academy. It will give young players a real opportunity to learn and grow as footballers while at the same time having an avenue into a semi-professional football club."

"We are very proud that MLT Natural Coaching believe that AFC Totton has the abilities and facilities needed to take players from their academy and take them forward."

"We look forward to working with MLTNC. We know it will be successful for both organisations but, most of all, successful for the future football players in the Totton and Southampton area."

Saints legend Le Tissier set up MLTNC in 2012 with the philosophy of giving local children the chance to enjoy football training and express themselves free from the pressures of pro academies.

"When I was growing up on Guernsey I was able to go to football training and really enjoy it and, because of that, I became the player I was," he said.

"I didn't get pro coaching until I was 15, which is quite old in this day and age. These days kids are snapped up by clubs quite early, as young as seven, eight or nine, and that's a long time to be under pressure."

"We want our kids to try different things. When they see Match of the Day on a Saturday, we want them to come



**Matt Le Tissier explains how the trials work to brothers James and Matthew Shears. Inset: Ex-Saint Pele.**

into training and try those things out.

"We don't want them to be too focused on tactics, we want to make them rounded footballers who'll be comfortable playing in any position."

MLTNC cater for under-7s through to under-15s and were looking for an ambitious local club with good facilities to feed their youngsters into.

AFC Totton, who are gearing up for a Southern One South & West promotion push next season, fitted the bill.

"We didn't have that natural progression into men's football, so we needed to find a club in the local area willing to take us on as a local academy," said Le Tissier.

"We wanted to find a club for our kids who haven't been picked up by a pro club and still want to play local football at a good standard – which is where AFC Totton is."

"A lot of kids aged 16-18 are lost to football, they stop playing when other things come into their life. We want to keep them playing through their teens into adulthood, not just for the camaraderie but for their health."

The work done by MLTNC has thoroughly impressed Totton's first-team boss Steve Hollick – and not only from a football point of view.

"It's not just the football side, it's the social side," he said. "They do a lot of

work with kids to improve their schooling, their morals etc and they're trying to produce young, respectable players who, outside of football, understand what they need to do."

"I was expecting to see just the usual stuff, but they've got liaison officers and all sorts in place and are using the power of football to mould these youngsters. It's a tremendous compliment to Totton to be getting involved with Matt and his coaching school. I'm so impressed with what they're doing."

Totton already had links with MLTNC, with Stags striker Dylan Knight and reserves team player Sam Roberts among Le Tissier's coaching team.

## Luke is treble tops

**LUKE Faithful** blasted a hat-trick as Hedge End Athletic caned Testland 8-2 in the Senior Division of the City of Southampton Sunday League.

**Andy Bauck** and **Joe Williams** both struck twice while **Shaun Riddoutt** also netted for a Hedge End side who led 5-2 at the interval.

There was an 11-goal thriller in Junior Division 4 with **Fawley RBL Reserves** pipping **Portsmouth United Reserves** 6-5.

**Jake Voller** (2), **Dave Otworoski** (2), **Alex Waterman** and **Paul Robinson** were on target for the winners, with **Jimi John** (2), **Aaron Blaxall** (2) and **Mitch Drouet** replying.

**Cameron Roach** and **Braiden Hamilton** both struck four times as **Portsmouth** hammered

**Abbotswood** 11-0 in Junior Division 5.

**Shane Weaver**, **Kasey Baker** and **David Gough** also scored against an **Abbotswood** side who ended with only eight players due to injury.

**Hampshire FA Junior 'B' Cup** blob - Four-goal hero **Tom Munday** starred for **Hunters Inn** during their 5-0 win over **A.F.C Trades** in the **Hampshire FA Junior 'B' Cup**.

**Ashley McGimpsey** was **Hunter's** other marksman.

**Village Home** booked their place in the semi-finals of the **Hampshire FA Junior 'B' Cup** after beating **A.F.C. Velmere** 2-1.

**Craig Harper** grabbed a second half consolation for **Velmere**.

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## Non league FOOTBALL

# Magpies legend Taffy left saddened by cash crisis

... but Richardson is not surprised at depth of problem

**TAFFY Richardson insisted Wimborne Town's financial crash had been no surprise to him and revealed: "I got more money there than I ever did at Poole."**

In a hard-hitting assessment of Magpies' woes, Richardson said the club's outgoing board should shoulder full responsibility for amassing debts of approximately £110,000 – not past personnel.

The Cuthbury favourite, a member of the 1992 FA Vase-winning side, argued that Southern League survival should be achievable without a playing budget, *writes Andy Mitchell.*

And despite missing out on the manager's job in November, he hailed boss Simon Browne as "the right man for the job", as well as backing incoming chairperson Paula Henley to get monetary matters back on an even keel.

Richardson, who switched back to Wimborne from Poole for a brief spell in September 2011, told the (*Bournemouth Daily Echo*): "The problems were a shock when I first heard, but then not so much when I thought it over."

"I know roughly how much some people got in wages at Wimborne. Crowds have gone down, they haven't had a big benefactor and I know they paid good money."

"When I went to Wimborne for a month, I got more money there than I ever did at Poole. I took it because I was offered it, but I couldn't work out how they managed it and I was not one of their best-paid players by a long way."

"I could understand it if the club had been massively successful, if they had done a Salisbury, had an FA Cup run or won leagues, but they haven't won anything or done anything."

"Responsibility doesn't lie with whoever is running a team. I run my business and if it goes bust, that is my fault."

"You're not going to make money in football but you still have to run it as a business and look long term for the pitfalls – that cannot have been done."

"If the manager asks for money for players and gets it, he is going to take it, end of story. I don't blame any player or manager."

Henley has announced the playing budget has been scrapped altogether with expenses for travel to matches now the only provision, but Richardson says that does not necessarily spell doom.

"They have a chance," he added. "This is not the Southern League of 10 or 15 years ago, I don't think the standard is anywhere near as good now, it is more of a glorified Wessex League."



Taffy Richardson in action for Poole Town.

"There are players lower down kicking about that would jump at the chance to help out Wimborne."

"Simon Browne is no mug, he knows how to get a team to play, can organise very well and is the right man for the job. It will be hard, he didn't do pre-season so hasn't had the chance to stamp his authority on it, but if they survive and he gets them really fit next season they should be okay."

"There are enough bad teams lower than them at the moment to stop them

dropping down as long as they can organise themselves."

"Money should never be your motivation for playing. Sometimes it is a necessity, but they have some good players, some of whom will play. Where else are they going to go?"

"I've never met Paula Henley but, to me, she seems to be doing the right things. She has put herself in at the deep end and I admire that."

Richardson continued: "It is a shame. I look at the old days, we won the Vase

with no money and didn't get paid, all we got was a tracksuit as a bonus. We asked for a bonus. They said no, but we all stuck around and we were all there the season after."

The club lived within its means and was one big family then. It hurts quite a lot when I think back to what it was like."

"The one thing that upsets me about Wimborne is they don't seem to embrace their past. They seem to dislike the good things that have happened."

## Carl has not quit for cash

WIMBORNE Town boss Simon Browne insisted there was "nothing mercenary" about Carl Preston after the winger's move to Blackfield & Langley.

The Sydenhams Premier title chasers moved quickly to recruit former Poole Town wide man Preston immediately after the Magpies announced their playing budget had been axed.

Preston has been ever-present in all competitions since his summer switch from the Dolphins, scoring 16 goals in 34 appearances.

But with Browne's pot for player wages now empty, the Cuthbury manager understood his top scorer's decision to step down a level from the Southern One South & West and left open the door for a return.

He said: "Carl and I had a good chat at training, he didn't want to leave but the financial situation meant he couldn't turn Blackfield down."

### Excellent

"There is nothing mercenary about what he's doing. He has a young family and the money forms a chunk of his weekly income so he was not in a position to say no."

"There have been no bridges burned, Carl's attitude has been excellent throughout. I understand his position completely and we left it on good terms."

"I asked if he could consider coming back next season if the budget situation gets sorted out and he said he would."

Preston, a former Poole teammate of Blackfield boss Glenn Howes, briefly attracted interest from Wimborne's divisional rivals Winchester City earlier in the campaign.



Carl Preston, left.



# Non league FOOTBALL



Never giving up, Brett Williams, left

## New signing already looking worth his weight

BRETT Williams' signing for Forest Green Rovers has already been worth its weight in gold for the promotion-hungry Gloucestershire club.

With just seconds remaining at Wrexham last Saturday, FGR were staring down the barrel of a 2-1 National League defeat.

But former Eastleigh man Williams struck in the fourth minute of stoppage-time to salvage a 2-2 draw shortly after going on as a substitute.

It was the third game in a row that Rovers had scored in time added on, following on from late wins against Southport and Macclesfield.

The point was not enough to prevent them surrendering top spot to neighbours Cheltenham who them-

selves struck late to win at Barrow.

But Williams, who hails from Hedge End, Southampton, believes FGR's never-say-die attitude could mean the difference between automatic promotion and a play-off spot. "We just don't want to give up," he said.

"We want to try and win this league and win every game, but I think it was a vital point and it could be the difference.

### Grinding

"Cheltenham keep grinding out results and we've got to do what we can to stay with them and better them.

"There are 14 games left and I'm sure there will be some ups and downs for both teams, but it's who

grinds out the results the best."

For Wrexham, it was another galling end to a game, having squandered a late penalty in the previous week's 1-1 draw at Eastleigh.

Manager Gary Mills lamented: "We have had a couple of cruel Saturdays with some thin dividing lines."

■ Forest Green manager Ady Pennock has been named VNL manager of the month for January having masterminded a sequence of five consecutive wins.

Cheltenham's Danny Wright was voted January's outstanding VNL player, while the respective VNL South awards went to Margate boss Nikki Bull and Maidenhead United's former Basingstoke Town marksman Dave Tarpey.

## Flood for Boatmen

SHOLING'S flood of postponements reached double figures on Tuesday when their Sydenhams League Cup quarter-final at Newport IOW was rained off.

Not only did it leave the Boatmen to cram in 22 first-team matches – plus several other fixtures – before the end of April, but the backlog is having damaging repercussions on other areas of the club.

Only last week the Portsmouth Road outfit appealed for new volunteers/committee members to boost club numbers and launched a search for a new assistant secretary to replace Colin Chamberlain, who is standing down at the end of the season.

Speaking after Newport's pitch had failed a lunchtime inspection on Tuesday, Sholing secretary Greg Dickson said: "This is our tenth postponement of the season ... it is generating problems such as losing regular volunteers with the lack of matches at the moment.

"Plus, fringe and reserve players are drifting away through lack of game time."

Such has been the Boatmen's dearth of action that, as of Tuesday, they had played only four matches – two at home against Fareham and Gosport and two away at Salisbury and Winchester – in 53 days.

Assuming today's home game against Cowes went ahead, they still have ten home fixtures and 11 away fixtures left – and that is just first-team games.

"Added to that, we have to fit in our scheduled SDFA Cup ties with semi-finals of the Women's Cup and Southampton Senior Cup as well as three of their scheduled finals," Dickson explained. "These matches are very important to the club as it generates valuable revenue.

"Our reserves have a similar plight, having had 12 matches postponed."

Any potential volunteers or committee members interested in joining Sholing can contact Greg Dickson at secretary.sholingfc@gmail.com or ring him on 023 8039 7098 or 07948 832944.



Newport's sodden pitch

# 'Old School' words of advice after Folland flashpoint

Boss Lay: I'd have dealt with it a bit differently ...!

**VERWOOD** Town boss Alan Lay had some 'old school' words of advice for defender Zach Phelps following last Saturday's first-half flashpoint at Folland Sports.

With the Potters 2-0 up with half-time approaching, Phelps was infuriated to be on the receiving end of a strong challenge from Follands' Elliot Richards.

But while manager Lay understood the player's outrage, he said in his day he would have handled things differently.

"It was a lunge and I totally accept that Zach was not happy about it," he conceded.

"That said, I remember my days as a centre-half. I used to smile through those challenges and then stick one through the back of his head in the next phase.

"All Zach needs to do there is be dominant and strong when the next challenge presents itself."

That brought a chuckle from Follands' boss Dave Herbert who didn't think Richards' challenge was out of order in any case.

"It was not a bad tackle," he insisted. "It was 60-40 in Elliot's favour and he won the ball.

"I'd have been more annoyed if he hadn't gone in for it or he'd just dangled a foot instead of putting his body through it."

Richards' competitive spirit swept right through the Follands camp as the Sydenhams Premier basement boys hit back from two down to register their third league win of the



Verwood manager Alan Lay

season, 3-2.

An incident-packed contest, played in blustery conditions, began with Verwood taking the lead with a Tyler Rutten penalty after Liam Golding had upended Jordan Fisk.

And when Joe Wood bustled his way through and beat keeper Ross Casey, it looked as if the Planemakers would be nosediving again.

But ex-Liss and Horndean striker Matt Andrews swung the pendulum Follands' way with two goals in as many second-half minutes, rifling one into the far, top corner and netting another from close range.

Andrews could have completed a six-minute hat-trick from the spot, but visiting 'keeper Ray Stroud saved at full stretch and it was left to Planemakers' sub Dan Spreadbury to grab a late winner.

A delighted Herbert said: "For the first time our guys stuck to the game plan for 90 minutes.

"On another day, we could have had six or seven.

"There were a few outstanding performances, but I'd pick out Jamie Blackburn who's switched from midfield to right-back to help shore things up."

Verwood boss Lay was less enamoured, stating: "The conditions penned us in completely once the wind picked up at half-time, but we cannot make excuses.

"We didn't learn from our mistakes and the game management was nowhere near what we expect.

"We are in a bit of a rut but will be working hard to sort it out.

"In the first half we were superb, but we just did not react to the conditions in the second half.

"Once they started putting pressure on us, we collapsed like a house of cards."



## Non league FOOTBALL



# Glenn looking ahead - three years after horror tackle ...

Blackfield boss on coping with nightmare injury

**LOOKING forward rather than back has been one of Glenn Howes's greatest challenges.**

The third anniversary of Howes suffering a sickening career-ending injury is hardly a cause for celebration, *writes Neil Perrett.*

Instead, on February 16, the day Howes's life was turned upside-down, he will attempt to guide Blackfield & Langley into the semi-final of the Southampton Senior Cup.

Howes took on his first managerial post in May after his own playing career had been cruelly cut short at 30 having been the victim of a horror tackle while playing for Poole in the Southern League.

He sustained multiple injuries to his left leg when he was caught by Merthyr's Nathan Davies during a 2-2 draw in south Wales. Howes will not discuss publicly the incident as legal action is still ongoing.

### Torment

Davies, who now plays for Goytre in the Welsh League, received a three-match ban after being sent off for the tackle. Howes, meanwhile, has suffered three years of physical and mental torment.

Now general manager at Ferndown Leisure Centre, he spent months off work and had to sit for weeks with his leg elevated virtually 24 hours a day. The immediate consequences included deep vein thrombosis and a blocked blood vessel.

However, those complications pale into insignificance compared with what lies ahead for Howes, a highly-rated midfielder whose semi-pro career took in spells with Eastleigh, Basingstoke, Newport, Gosport and Poole.

The incident was filmed and the nine-second clip of when Howes's life changed forever has been viewed almost 38,000 times on the video-sharing website YouTube.

"In the early stages, I watched it on numerous occasions," said Howes. "However, I don't view it any more for obvious reasons.

### Huge shock

"I attended a number of sessions with a cognitive behavioural psychotherapist who was brilliant in refocusing my goals.

"It was a huge shock to the system not being able to train, to play games and being removed from the camaraderie environment that football brings.

"In many ways, my lifestyle has regressed, particularly from a mobility point of view.



Glenn Howes suffered life changing knee injuries in a tackle three years ago.

Unfortunately, I am unable to do a variety of activities and have now moved into a more sedentary job.

"I have been told by the surgeon that more surgery will be needed and, longer term, a knee replacement will be required in the next 10 to 15 years.

"It is my aim to prolong the surgery for as long as possible through staying active and healthy by managing the knee appropriately.

"I feel very fortunate that I can now do most things within reason and am really focusing on looking forward rather than back."

While Howes has enjoyed a fruitful baptism in management - with Blackfield currently flying high in Wessex Premier and having reached the third qualifying round of the FA

Cup - he readily admits there is no substitute for playing.

"People say coaching and managing is the next best thing to playing and it probably is," said Howes. "But it hasn't been easy by any stretch of the imagination.

"I'm enjoying it and it's great to be in and around the dressing room and around a football club again.

### Frustrated

"But not a day goes by when I don't think about playing. It was really difficult to get involved in the training sessions when I first started because you become a frustrated player. Once you set out the boys on the pitch, you can change it but it's up to them to deliver.

"To this day, I still struggle. I don't

think it is going to get any easier but I'm sure any ex-player would say the same.

"It's not just because of my circumstances and, when the time comes to retire, anybody would say there is no substitute for playing a game you love.

"Life is full of what-ifs. Could my own behaviour have affected what happened? Could I have released the ball quicker? Was I in the incorrect position?

"All these things go through your mind. Hindsight is a wonderful thing. It's done and dusted and I am trying to move on as best I can.

"I want to channel my energies into Blackfield & Langley and am trying to develop myself as a coach and manager."

## Nuts and Bolts on Claridge agenda!

**SALISBURY boss Steve Claridge will get down to the Nuts and Bolts of the FA Vase next Saturday when Ashford United visit in the quarter-finals.**

The Kent side - nicknamed the Nuts and Bolts - booked their ticket to the Raymond McEnhill Stadium with an astonishing comeback in their fifth round replay at Dunston UTS last weekend.

Having been held 1-1 on home soil, Ashford travelled to the north east as rank outsiders to progress against a Dunston side who won the competition in 2012.

And things certainly didn't look good when they found themselves 2-0 down on Tyneside to goals by Steven Richardson and Mal Morien.

But Shaun Welford's goal halved the arrears just after the hour mark and the game turned on 66 minutes when Dunston sub Stephen Goddard was sent off just seconds after going on for lashing out at Ashford player/manager Danny Lye.

Mickey Phillips' popped up to level the scores three minutes from time and United's miraculous fightback was complete in stoppage time as Dunston defender Dan Smith turned the ball into his own net.

Vase favourites Hereford cruised through to the last eight with a 4-1 win at north Hampshire outfit Hartley Wintney of the Combined Counties Premier Division.

The Bulls are home to Camberley Town in the quarter-finals.

FA Vase quarter-finals: Hereford v Camberley Town, Salisbury v Ashford United, Morpeth Town v Bristol Manor Farm, Ipswich Wanderers or Bowers & Pitsea v Kidlington.



Steve Claridge



# Non league FOOTBALL



Dan Telfer, left.

## Downton collapse to their heaviest loss of season

DISASTER struck for Downton at Wick Lane on Tuesday as they suffered their heaviest defeat of the season against Christchurch.

A Luke Stone hat-trick, Pepe-Chino Smith's double and a Jacques Bernard single thrashed the Robins 6-0 in Sydenhams One.

The Hurn Bridge visitors made a storming start in the division's only game not to fall foul of the weather, scoring three goals in the opening 30 minutes, writes Joel Holt.

Stone weaved his way into the area to put Priory ahead.

Smith doubled the visitors' lead before Grant Cormack's cross was tapped home by Stone.

Moments after the restart, Ollie Cherrert's men had five thanks to Smith and Stone, the latter completing his hat-trick.

Bernard got in on the rout late on with a good finish.

Robins manager Colin Hopkins sighed: "We were awful, conceding three goals

in each half. As good as Christchurch are in attack, we made it so easy for them and we need to bounce back."

Downton had been better last weekend, defeating Hythe & Dibden 3-1 on home soil.

Assistant manager Ben Smith's header was cancelled out by Nick Skolsky's strike for Hythe as the first half ended 1-1. Dan Telfer then produced a miraculous strike, some 45 yards from goal, to restore the hosts' advantage and added another late on.

## Baird: You can't put the blame on Dean

EX-EASTLEIGH defender Dean Beckwith was the accidental match winner as Sutton United missed out on a place in the FA Trophy quarter-finals at Bognor Regis Town on Tuesday.

Having been held 0-0 in swirling wind at Gander Green Lane last weekend, the Us fell behind to an 18th-minute Jason Prior opener in the replay but equalised through another former Spitfire Stuart Fleetwood from the penalty spot.

With the score still 1-1 after 90 minutes, the tie was decided by an own goal in extra time.

Beckwith's calamitous moment came when he crashed a header past his own keeper trying to keep out sub Ollie Pearce's cross under pressure from Prior.

### Difficult cross

Absolving Beckwith of any blame for the 2-1 defeat, Sutton head coach and former Eastleigh boss Ian Baird admitted: "We shot ourselves in the foot in extra time."

"We played a silly blind ball when other people were facing and they have broken on us."

"It was a difficult cross to deal with and Dean has headed it in, but you cannot point the blame at him."

"We scored for them and we're disappointed, but we have to use that disappointment to kick us on for promotion (from the National League South)."

To add to Sutton's woes, yet another of their ex-Eastleigh contingent, midfielder Jamie Collins, limped off injured and is feared out for up to six weeks with a hamstring problem.

He joins two other familiar Silverlake names on the Us' treatment table - Craig McAllister (knee) and Dan Spence (hamstring).

Baird took charge of the Sutton side while manager Paul Doswell was on holiday in South Africa celebrating his 50th birthday.



Dean Beckwith (blue)

# Kemp: 'Bemerton need more local players – but it's hard'

'Players happy where they are,' laments Graham

**BEMERTON** Heath Harlequins' side has changed beyond all recognition since Graham Kemp took over as manager.

The recent arrival of Adam Costello from Wimborne Town means he now has eight of his former Christchurch side in residence at Western Way.

But Kemp admits that longer-term the Wiltshire club need to start re-recruiting local players again, *writes Wendy Gee*.

Last Saturday's 2-2 draw at AFC Portchester was achieved with a starting line-up totally devoid of any players from last season. The only familiar name in the squad was skipper Jack Slade who was named on the bench because he was carrying a knock.

Seb Dawes is taking time off after becoming a dad, while another of the Heath old guard, Graham Mankin, is suffering with a hernia and is unlikely to play again this season.

"I've just signed Adam Costello from Wimborne which means I have eight of my old Christchurch team now," said Kemp. "It's great for me and the lads because I know how they work and the team spirit is already made. Like any manager, it's good to work with players you know."

"It's a shame the lads have to travel so far, but they're fine. Eight or nine of them come up [from the Bournemouth area] in two cars and they all get on."

"But for the sake of the club I would like to see more local players because you know what football's like."

"If I left, it may be that the whole team would leave with me."

It's not for want of trying by Kemp that the bulk of his team is made in Dorset rather than Wiltshire.

"We had five or six of last year's team at one stage, but I was disappointed with the way the first half of the season went and I had a word



Russell Cook, on the ball for Bemerton, scored four times on Tuesday.

with Steve [Slade, chairman] about it," he said.

"He knew there wasn't going to be an overnight fix, but we're getting there slowly and the team's starting to take shape."

"I don't drive from Bournemouth to Salisbury three times a week to finish 13th. I might as well manage Poppies or somewhere like that if we're not going to challenge. I have spoken to players more local to Bemerton, but it's difficult because they're happy where they are."

"Salisbury and Amesbury want to get promoted and Downton are tenth in Division One, so realistically how many of them are good enough?"

Bemerton were unlucky last Saturday, having James Burden sent off after just 25 minutes at AFC Portchester but so nearly holding on for victory.

They twice led in the second half through Sam Griffin and Jack Lovell but were pegged back by Jason Parish before Joe Bye levelled with a last-gasp penalty.

That frustration fuelled a fire for Tuesday as Heath blew Brockenhurst away 7-3 at Western Way.

Kemp's men turned around a 3-2 deficit with five second-half goals – three of them from ex-Christchurch hotshot Russell Cook who netted four in total.

A cracking first half saw Brock's Matt Vokes punish 'keeper Max Frampton for two misjudged kicks for a 2-0 lead inside 15 minutes.

Harlequins pulled one back through skipper Slade before Scott Joyce, returning to his old club, restored Brock's two-goal advantage.

Cook reduced the arrears before half-time.

Lovell equalised with a shot across the 'keeper on the hour and Bemerton roared on with four goals in a frenetic 17-minute spell.

Ex-Brock man Brad McGookin smashed the hosts ahead for the first time and then Cook struck three more times, including a penalty.



# Non league FOOTBALL



## GE give a green light

Folland delight as they're told they can stay put ...

**FOLLAND Sports have been given the green light to continue playing at their Kings Avenue home next season.**

And, with a bit of luck, they hope to get an extension until April 2018, writes Wendy Gee.

At this time last season the club, founded in 1938 for the workers at the aircraft factory in Hamble-Le-Rice, faced an uncertain future.

American parent company GE Aviation were considering closing down the GEA Sports and Social Club grounds with a view to selling the site.

The Planemakers were given a stay of execution of approximately one year, allowing the club to remain in the Sydenhams Premier Division.

And although 2015/16 has been a tough season played out against a backdrop of uncertainty, there is a flicker of hope.

Club secretary Adrian Harris said: "We can't confirm anything yet, only that we will be playing at the ground next season."



Folland's ground at Kings Avenue, Hamble. Inset: Dave Herbert.

"GE are being really supportive of the football club, the cricket club and the bowls club who use the site and are trying to come up with a longer-term solution."

Follands are currently bottom of the Sydenhams Premier pile having had to rebuild the side three times since the end of the successful Danny Bowers/Dave Lewis era which peaked with an all-time high of third place in 2013/14.

After brief stints under Dorset-

based duo Jay Keating and Kevin Jackson failed to work out, the Planemakers turned to former reserve team boss and first-team coach Dave Herbert to pick up the pieces, assisted by John McFarlane.

Acknowledging that the pair have not had it easy, Harris said: "It's been difficult all round. No one is going to sponsor a team that's effectively been waiting to close down and you can't attract players or committee members either."

"Dave and John are on the committee by virtue of being team managers, but really the committee is just myself and the chairman Adrian Stremel and there are a couple of other helpers. Hopefully an extension from GE will really help us."

Herbert says an extension on the ground would come as a welcome lift. "It will give the lads a bit of a boost and hopefully bring in sponsorship," he said. "Making the future safe will help us attract players."



Southampton Saints under-13s celebrate

## Saints under-13 girls hammer out a title warning to Boscombe

SOUTHAMPTON Saints U13s won 4-1 at Winchester & District Girls League Under-14 leaders AFC Boscombe.

Larissa White opened the scoring for the visitors at Chapel Gate after just five minutes.

Speed down the wings from Grace Griffiths, Francesca Manson, Olivia Norton and Katie Oliver created nu-

merous chances.

Creative midfield play from Siena Millen, Ava Berglin and Ella Hughdie linked up the wide players and attackers, releasing both White and Amy Watson up front.

Skipper Holly Jerrim, Amber O'Reilly and Megan Guy kept the defence tight. Guy was substituted after half an hour with an ankle injury

and Hughdie dropped back and did an outstanding job out of her usual position.

Goalkeeper Emily Gardiner had some tricky judgement calls to make, due to the wind and the home attackers.

Griffiths and Hughdie both went close before Amy Watson struck from a corner just before the inter-

val.

Watson added her second six minutes into the second half, before Olivia Norton made it 4-0. Ellie Chaffe grabbed a late consolation.

Elsewhere in the U14 League West, third placed Romsey defeated Wyvern 3-0 with goals from Lauren Hodder (2) and leading scorer Siena Amy.

## White hot for Saints

SOUTHAMPTON Saints romped to an 11-0 victory at Shanklin in the Hampshire Women's League Under-16 Division - helped by a quickfire hat-trick from Siena White.

Libby O'Dell opened the scoring after just 43 seconds from a pass from Alisha Buckingham.

It was 2-0 on 10 minutes when Bex Quinn scored with O'Dell providing the assist. Ellie Russell headed a third before Alisha Buckingham converted from a quick Katie Johns throw in.

Chloe Perry made it 5-0 on 39 minutes with a well taken finish from a Bradley through ball.

Playing up the hill in the second half, Jess Bradley netted on 45 minutes before White plundered the quickest hat-trick of the season.

White netted her trio on 61, 63 and 66 minutes.

Pezza completed her hat-trick on 73 and 76 minutes.

Second placed Bishop's Waltham caned Alton B 7-0 with hat-tricks from Wood and Woollett.

St Francis won 3-1 at AFC Boscombe while Winchester beat Worthies 4-1.

Alton United leapt to the top of the Hampshire Women's League - despite being held 0-0 by visiting Mudeford.

That was because Shanklin Reserves stunned previous leaders Warsash Wasps 3-1 with a sizzling home display thanks to goals from Sarni, Spink and Gemma Woodford. Emily Osborne replied.

Division 3 leaders AFC Portchester had a taster of what to expect next season when they lost 3-1 to Division 2 outfit Gosport Borough in the Hampshire Intermediate Cup.

I Mudeford thrashed Winchester Flyers 5-1 in the Winchester & District U14 Cup.

Hannah Campbell was their player of the match with Bussell, Wall, Balsford and Fitzpatrick on target.

Alderbury came from a goal down at half-time to win 2-1 at New Milton.

In the U12 Cup, Emma Simpson blasted SEVEN goals as St Francis Rangers thumped Widbrook Black 8-0.

Angel McLeod hit a hat-trick as Winchester Flyers fired 12 goals past Pompey University.

Southampton Saints U12 remain unbeaten in the U13 League after a 1-1 draw at Worthies.

Jess Marshall opened the scoring the Worthies in the second half but Saints levelled through Larnie Bisson.

In the U11 section, Winchester Flyers Reds beat St Francis and Flyers Blacks defeated Romsey.

The only game of the day in the U10 age group saw Pompey beat Southampton Saints, whose Phoebe Rabjohn was awarded the opposition player of the match.



## Non league FOOTBALL



Lee Wort, left, in action for Poole

### 'Brilliant' Wort praised by Gosport boss Pike after returning from his Poole loan spell

THREE former Sholing favourites played vital roles for Gosport Borough in Tuesday's 3-1 Vanarama National League South derby win at Havant & Waterlooville.

With the pitch inevitably heavy after so much rainfall, Borough used the slightly drier wide areas to good effect with ex-Boatman TJ Cuthbertson and former Folland Sports wideman Rory Williams key to that plan.

Up front former Sholing striker Lee Wort – back from loan at Poole Town – laid on two of the goals as Gosport fought back from behind

with a Warren Cummings own goal, a Dan Wooden beauty and yet another from all-time top scorer Justin Bennett.

Another ex-Boatman Mike Carter played a crucial part in Borough's first ever league win at Westleigh Park, popping up to clear Josh Hill's header off the line.

#### Brilliant

Although Wort didn't score himself, he laid the ball into Wooden's path to thump home from the edge of the area for 2-1 and then cut

back for Bennett to slide home Borough's third.

"Worty has been brilliant since he came back from Poole," smiled Borough boss Alex Pike, chuffed to have completed a first league double over their labouring rivals.

"I don't feel in the local area people rate my team, but tonight we might just have got a bit more respect," he added.

While fourth-placed Gosport are looking good for a play-off spot, Lee Bradbury's Havant face a battle for survival at the other end of the table.

# Tipp delighted that Totton love their neighbours again

### Greater harmony is of benefit to younger players

**IT hasn't always been a case of 'love they neighbour' where Totton & Eling and AFC Totton are concerned.**

But there is far greater harmony between the camps these days and T&E chairman Andy Tipp hopes that's the way it will stay, *writes Wendy Gee*.

For one thing, AFC Totton boss Steve Hollick is a former Millers goalkeeper and Tipp would like to see him go far in his managerial career.

And, for another, the more pedigree youngsters the Sydenhams One club can dual-sign from their Southern League neighbours, the better off they – and developing Totton talent in general – will be.

One such player, Jake Rawkins, is the latest AFC Totton teenager to be benefitting from a spell 'across the fence.'

The pocket-sized wideman snaffled all four goals last Saturday as the merry Millers triumphed at New Milton Town.

"Jake's on fire at the moment," smiled Tipp. "He's a tiny lad, but he's quicker than he looks and we call him 'the pocket rocket.'

"We played (towering ex-Saint) Jo Tessem up top at New Milton with Jake on one side and Sam House on the other.

"It just so happened that everything fell to Jake on the day – much to Sam's frustration because he's the league's top scorer!

"Jake excels when we play three up front because the two wide men get much more involved. A lot of his goals come from shots from other people, he mops up everything."



Totton & Eling's top scorer Sam House, right.

Rawkins broke into AFC Totton's first-team squad last season and was part of this campaign's matchday squad until an influx of more experienced signings.

"He's only a young lad and Totton thought very highly of him – and still do – and they feel it's good for his development to get some games under his belt," Tipp explained.

"It's good for us too. The more suc-

cess they get, the better our pool of players becomes, so I want AFC Totton to go as high as they possibly can!

"Steve Hollick knows our club well, having played in goal for us and been on the coaching staff during Kev Dawtry's time in charge, and he knows what we can offer.

"Obviously he doesn't want to leave their reserves light, but it's good that the two clubs can work together to

give opportunities to these young lads."

Rawkins' goal spree brought a shuddering halt to New Milton's recent revival on home soil.

Prior to last Saturday, the Linnets had been on a four-match unbeaten league run at Fawcett's Field, collecting ten points from matches against Laverstock & Ford, Christchurch, Tadley Calleva and Downton.

## Neil's ups & downs

Neil Warnock has been named as the new manager of Rotherham until the end of the season.

He has already managed 13 different clubs during a 36-year managerial career, including Leeds and hometown club Sheffield United, with two different spells at both Crystal Palace and QPR. He has won promotion seven times with five different clubs and has been relegated twice.

Here, the Sports PINK looks at his ups and downs.

**Promotion**  
Scarborough, 1987 - Warnock steered Scarborough to the Conference title and ensured the seaside club became the first club to win automatic promotion to the Football League.

Notts County, 1990 - Notts secured promotion to the second tier with a 2-0 play-off final win against Tranmere at Wembley.

Notts County, 1991 - Warnock secured back-to-back promotions with Notts, again via the play-offs.

Huddersfield, 1995 - Huddersfield finished fifth in the third tier but went up after beating Bristol Rovers 2-1 in the play-off final at Wembley.

Plymouth, 1996 - Warnock enjoyed more play-off success after Plymouth finished fourth in the old Third Division.

Sheffield United, 2006 - Warnock had been beaten for the first time as a manager in the play-offs with the Blades in 2003 - they also lost in the semi-finals of both the FA Cup and League Cup that season - but three years later guided his boyhood club to the Premier League after finishing runners-up in the Championship.

QPR, 2011 - The Londoners had briefly flirted with relegation from the Championship the previous season but were soon turned into promotion contenders under Warnock, who steered them to the Premier League as champions.

**Relegation**  
Notts County, 1992 - Notts found life difficult in their first season in the top flight and went on to finish second bottom.

Sheffield United, 2007 - Needing a point on the final day to survive, the Blades lost 2-1 at Wigan and Carlos Tevez famously scored the only goal for relegation rivals West Ham at Manchester United. West Ham and Wigan stayed up at the Blades' expense, the latter due to a one-goal margin.



Neil Warnock



## Tennis balls, a chicken and a pig's head

**BORUSSIA** Dortmund fans disrupted their DFB-Pokal semi-final at Stuttgart this week by throwing tennis balls onto the pitch in protest at ticket prices.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at other unusual ways in which fans have made their voices heard.

**More tennis balls:** Dortmund supporters were not the first to throw tennis balls. Hull fans disrupted a League Cup tie against Bolton in 1998 in the same manner in protest at owner David Lloyd, a former tennis player and Great Britain Davis Cup captain. He sold the club later the same year.

**Venky's chicken:** The atmosphere at Ewood Park had grown steadily more toxic during the 2011-12 season as Blackburn slipped towards relegation from the Premier League. Indian owners Venky's, a chicken meat processing firm, were the focus of most of the anger and at a crucial match against Wigan in May 2012 a chicken draped in a Blackburn flag was let loose on the pitch.

**Pig's head:** Luis Figo's transfer from Barcelona to Real Madrid in July 2000 was one of the most controversial in football history. Barca fans made their feelings known on Figo's first return to



Luis Figo was once pelted with a pig's head. the Nou Camp, and things got even more heated the second time he went back in November 2002. The game was suspended for nearly 20 minutes because of the number of objects being thrown at Figo as he tried to take a corner, with the most famous missile being a pig's head.

**Green and gold:** Manchester United supporters' anger at the ownership of the Glazer family became symbolised by the wearing of green and gold scarves - the colours of Newton Heath, the club's first incarnation. The campaign received a boost in March 2011 when David Beckham left the pitch after a Champions League game against AC Milan wearing one of the scarves. FC United, currently in the National League North, were set up in 2005 by United fans opposed to the Glazer takeover.

**Blackpool sit-in:** Blackpool fans forced their final match of last season to be abandoned by staging a sit-in demonstration. With 48 minutes gone of the fixture against Huddersfield at Bloomfield Road, supporters protesting about the running of the already-relegated club poured onto the pitch and occupied the centre circle. Referee Mick Russell called the game off after a delay of more than an hour.

# The rise and fall of p

**THEY are two of the hottest shots to have played in the top tier of non league football in recent times.**

Matt Tubbs blasted 37 goals in only 41 games - three as a sub - as Crawley Town stormed to the Conference Premier title in 2010/11, writes **SIMON CARTER**.

The following season, 2011/12, Jamie Vardy hit 31 goals in 36 games as Fleetwood Town collected the title and a place in the Football League.

Any football fan will tell you what Vardy is up to now.

A full England international, he is the Premier League's top scorer for a Leicester side potentially poised to become the most remarkable top flight winners of all time.

Vardy's recent double strike against Liverpool - including a goal of the season contender from outside the area - took his league tally for the season to 18.

In contrast, Tubbs this week returned to the top tier of non league football.

Having fallen out of favour at Portsmouth, he joined Eastleigh on loan until the rest of the season.

### Coup

It is some coup for the Spitfires, to say the least.

Still only 31, Tubbs scored 24 goals for AFC Wimbledon and Pompey last term.

Twenty one of those came in League 2 - two more than anyone else managed in the fourth tier.

A year ago next week, Tubbs was blasting a hat-trick for Pompey in a 6-2 league win at Cambridge United.

Now, while Vardy is part of a sensational success story and firmly in the spotlight, he is back in non league football.

Only 1,335 diehards were at Kidderminster on Tuesday to see Tubbs make his Spitfires debut.

It was his first competitive game since the end of October, and ended in a shock 3-2 loss for the promotion-chasing visitors.

Kidderminster, lest we forget, had only won three league games all season prior to Tuesday's victory.

That stretched the Spitfires winless streak to six league games - nine if you include the two Bolton ties in the FA Cup and an FA Trophy home loss to Gateshead.

### Improved

Previously, Todd had won 13 of his first 16 league and cup matches in charge.

Still, with Tubbs on board, Eastleigh have certainly improved their firepower.

The player, it's fair to say, has always scored goals.

He netted 18 times for Salisbury in 2005/06 as the club won promotion from the Southern League.

At the first attempt, the Whites - then under the management of ex-Saints star Nick Holmes - won promotion from the Conference South.



New signing Matt Tubbs during the Vanarama Premier League match between Kidderminster Harriers and Eastleigh.



Matt Tubbs, left, and former Eastleigh striker Craig McAllister with the FA Cup during their time at Crawley in 2011.

Tubbs, who was combining his football with working as a lifeguard at Sandy Balls holiday centre near Fordingbridge, struck 25 times in 42 appearances.

He also hit the national headlines when he scored against Nottingham Forest in the FA Cup second

round.

Salisbury held Forest - then in League 1, but still three divisions higher than the Wiltshire club - to a 1-1 draw at the Ray Mac before losing the replay 2-0.

Tubbs' most important goal came in the last game of the 2006/07 sea-

son when his strike gave Salisbury a 1-0 win over Braintree in the Conference South play-off final at Stevenage.

Playing in the Conference Premier for the first time, Tubbs continued to score regularly.

He netted 16 goals in 42 games

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# Prolific Matt Tubbs



Matt Tubbs wheels away after scoring for Salisbury City against Nottingham Forest in the FA Cup in 2006.



Matt Tubbs scores for Crawley at Walsall during a loan spell from Cherries in February 2014.

as Salisbury finished 12th in their first ever season in the top tier of English non league football.

The following season, 2008/09, saw him struggle at the Ray Mac for the first time.

Goals were hard to come by, though he did make his Football League debut during a short loan

spell with AFC Bournemouth, then in League 2.

Tubbs also scored his first Football League goal, in a 3-3 draw with Luton Town under the management of Jimmy Quinn.

After that season, Tubbs' career really started to take off.

He finished the 2009/10 season as

the Conference Premier's top goal-scorer with 32 in all competitions.

Despite a mid table finish, Salisbury were demoted two divisions for financial reasons.

There was no way they could afford to keep their crown jewel, and Tubbs moved to Crawley for around £70,000.

Tubbs left the Whites having scored 107 league goals for the club, and 123 in all competitions in 278 league and cup appearances.

He was a smash hit in Sussex, blasting 37 league goals as Crawley marched to the Conference title with over 100 points.

They also reached the fifth round of the FA Cup, losing 1-0 at Old Trafford.

In all, Tubbs belted 40 goals in 48 league and cup outings.

After 12 goals in 24 appearances at the start of 2011/12, Tubbs was on his way back to Bournemouth – this time for a Cherries record deal believed to be around £800,000.

Crawley manager Steve Evans admitted to "shedding a tear" once the deal had been finalised. No wonder, given that the player had blasted 49 league goals for the club in only 65 appearances.

## Knee surgery

With 72 minutes gone on Tubbs' second debut for the Cherries, he was off the mark in a 2-0 win over Exeter in February 2012.

Tubbs then had to undergo knee surgery, ruling him out for the remainder of the season.

Tubbs was mainly used as a sub in the 2012/13 season when Cherries won promotion from League 1.

Up against the likes of Lewis Grabban (who last month rejoined the Dorset club for £7m) and Brett Pitman for a starting place, Tubbs was restricted to just six league starts plus 25 sub outings – scoring six goals.

The 2013/14 season involved two reunions from both ends of the spectrum. First, Tubbs joined up once again with Steve Evans at Rotherham, in what would prove to be an unsuccessful half-season loan spell – one goal in 17 appearances for the Millers telling its own story.

## Nostalgic

Desperate to get back amongst the goals, Tubbs then made a nostalgic trip back to Crawley Town. He netted six in his first six games, ending the campaign with eight goals for the League 1 club – including one against Evans' Rotherham.

Ahead of the 2014/15 season, Tubbs signed a season-long loan deal with League 2 club AFC Wimbledon.

After scoring 15 goals in 30 appearances, Tubbs was recalled early by Bournemouth in early January 2015 and joined Portsmouth a few days later.

Despite Tubbs' nine goals in 23 appearances, Pompey never got going and finished the season in 14th place.

The 2015/16 season opened with both Tubbs and Portsmouth having their eyes firmly fixed on promotion.

But after scoring five goals in 18 appearances, Tubbs picked up an injury in October and hasn't featured since.

Now Eastleigh have offered him a fresh challenge.

## Julian joins the young bosses club

JULIAN Nagelsmann has been confirmed as the new coach of Bundesliga strugglers Hoffenheim, at the age of 28.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at some other young appointments, at varying levels.

### Eddie Howe, Bournemouth (31)

Howe was just 31 when he took over as boss of the Dorset side in 2009. He lifted them out of the League Two relegation zone and – following a spell at Burnley – continued the rise with two promotions in three years. They are currently 15th in the Barclays Premier League.

### Karl Robinson, MK Dons (29)

Robinson became the youngest manager in the Football League after being promoted from assistant manager following Paul Ince's departure for Blackburn in 2010. After a couple of near-misses he got the Dons into the Championship, where they are currently 20th.

### Bobby Smith, Bury (29)

Smith was also 29 when he took the Gigg Lane gig in 1973. He achieved promotion in his first season but is best remembered for his time in charge of Swindon, where he masterminded the



Eddie Howe took over at Cherries when he was just 31.

Division Three club's run to the League Cup semi-finals in 1980 – including victory over top-flight Arsenal.

### Chris Brass, York (27)

Brass was named York's player-manager at the age of 27 in 2003. Although his first campaign started well, the Minstermen failed to win any of their final 20 league games and were relegated to the Conference. Things did not improve the following season and he was sacked in November 2004.

### Paul Watson, Pohnpei (25)

The Bristolian took over as coach of the tiny Pacific island of Pohnpei in 2009, seeking to improve the fortunes of a country with the population of 34,000 – less than half the capacity of Wembley. He left the unpaid role the following year.

### James Phillips, Romsey (21)

Hampshire-based Romsey named James Phillips as head coach in 2014 and he became the youngest manager in the FA Cup's 143-year history soon after. However, Phillips left by mutual agreement with the club at the foot of Sydenhams Division One, after just one win in 15 league games.



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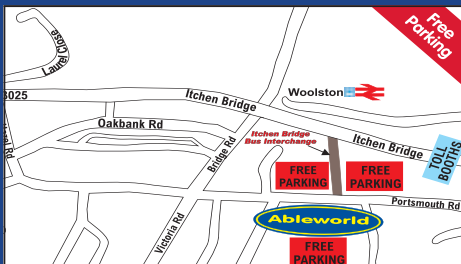
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# Swansea v Saints - down

**SAINTS were this weekend aiming to maintain their impressive Premier League record at Swansea.**

The club were seeking their third successive league win at the Liberty Stadium, and their fourth clean sheet at the ground in a row.

Here, **Jack Flannigan** looks back at Saints' league record in Swansea.

**Sept 8, 1919**  
**Southern League - Swansea 1 Saints 2**

Joe Barrett and Arthur Dominey netted as Saints made a winning start in Swansea at the club's Vetch Field ground.

**Oct 16, 1920**  
**Division 2 - Swansea 1 Saints 1**  
Joe Barrett scored again in what was now a Football League Third Division South encounter at the Vetch.

**February 22, 1922**  
**Division 3 - Swansea 1 Saints 0**

**March 29, 1926**  
**Division 2 - Swansea 3 Saints 1**  
Jimmy Bullock, who scored 13 goals in 33 appearances for Saints that season, got the visitors' consolation.

**April 23, 1927**  
**Division 2 - Swansea 2 Saints 2**  
Winger William Henderson and striker Samuel Taylor netted for Saints.

**December 12, 1927**  
**Division 2 - Swansea 2 Saints 0**

**December 22, 1928**  
**Division 2 - Swansea 1 Saints 1**  
Jerry Mackie, in his first season at Saints after moving from arch rivals Portsmouth, gave the visitors a point.

## Financial problems

**March 13, 1930**  
**Division 2 - Swansea 2 Saints 2**  
Jerry Mackie was again on target, with strike partner John Arnold also scoring.

**October 25, 1930**  
**Division 2 - Swansea 0 Saints 1**  
Bill Fraser scored the only goal as Saints won at The Vetch for the first time in 12 years. Fraser was later sold to Fulham for £500 at a time when Saints were beset by financial problems.

**November 14, 1931**  
**Division 2 - Swansea 3 Saints 4**  
Arthur Wilson scored twice for Saints in what remains the highest-scoring game between the two clubs in south Wales. John Arnold and Bill Fraser also scored.

**December 26, 1932**  
**Division 2 - Swansea 2 Saints 1**  
Ted Drake, later to become an Arsenal legend, grabbed Saints' consolation goal.

**September 16, 1933**  
**Division 2 - Swansea 1 Saints 0**



Action from Saints' 3-2 loss at The Vetch Field in October 1982.



David Armstrong tussles for possession during Saints' 1-0 loss at The Vetch Field in April 1982.

**December 25, 1934**  
**Division 2 - Swansea 0 Saint 1**  
Laurence Fishlock grabbed the only goal on Christmas Day.

**December 28, 1935**  
**Division 2 - Swansea 0 Saints 0**

**September 19, 1936**  
**Division 2 - Swansea 5 Saints 1**

Frederick Smallwood netted Saints' consolation on a miserable day for boss George Kay and his team.

**December 27, 1937**  
**Division 2 - Swansea 0 Saints 0**

**April 1, 1939**  
**Division 2 - Swansea 1 Saints 3**  
Winger Billy Bevis was the star of the show with a hat-trick.

**October 3, 1946**  
**Division 2 - Swansea 4 Saints 2**  
Strikers Jack Bradley and Ted Bates replied for Saints.

**September 10, 1949**  
**Division 2 - Swansea 4 Saints 0**  
Saints gave away two penalties by conceding two more goals in the last five minutes.



Rickie Lambert heads Saints' late goal.



Victor Wanyama scores Saints' win.

**February 3, 1951**  
**Division 2 - Swansea 2 Saints 2**  
Striker Frank Dudley and goalkeeper John Christie made their debuts whilst it was defender Eric Webb's last game for the club. Saints fell down before Eddy Brown pulled back.

**April 5, 1952**

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# in memory lane



winner at The Liberty in May 2014.



winner at Swansea in September 2014.

**Division 2 - Swansea 1 Saints 1**  
Ted Bates put Saints ahead, with Swansea levelling from a penalty.

**October 25, 1952**  
**Division 2 - Swansea 1 Saints 2**  
Frank Dudley and Johnny Walker put Saints in control, before the hosts' consolation. Saints were relegated at the end of the season.

**April 1, 1961**  
**Division 2 - Swansea 4 Saints 1**  
Saints fell 3-0 down before winger Harry Penk scored a fine consolation.

**January 13, 1962**  
**Division 2 - Swansea 0 Saints 1**  
Tommy Mulgrew's goal enabled Saints to complete the double, having drubbed the Swans 5-1 at The Dell.

**December 26, 1962**  
**Division 2 - Swansea 1 Saints 1**  
John Sydenham levelled after Todd had given Swansea the lead.

**March 3, 1964**  
**Division 2 - Swansea 6 Saints 0**  
Saints slumped to their heaviest ever loss to the south Wales club.

**November 28, 1964**  
**Division 2 - Swansea 3 Saints 3**  
George O'Brien gave Saints the lead before Swansea hit back to go in front.

Terry Paine equalised but the hosts were ahead again through a Tony Knapp own goal.

Knapp atoned for his earlier gaffe but pouncing for a last-minute leveler.

**April 13, 1982**  
**First Division - Swansea 1 Saints 0**

Striker Keith Cassells, signed from Oxford United the previous month, made a losing debut for Saints.

Alan Curtis, who would sign for Saints a year later, scored the only goal.

Swansea went onto finish sixth in their first ever top flight campaign - one position ahead of Saints.

## Late winner

**October 23, 1982**  
**First Division - Swansea 3 Saints 2**

The Swans grabbed an 88th minute winner through Jimmy Loveridge.

Loanee Justin Fashanu had put Saints ahead, with an Dennis Rofe own goal levelling.

Robbie James fired Swansea ahead, but Danny Wallace equalised.

Swansea were relegated at the end of the season.

**October 25, 2008**  
**Championship - Swansea 3 Saints 0**

Saints' first ever visit to the Liberty Stadium was a losing once.

Darren Pratley scored an early opener, with Jordi Gomez and Tom Butler on target in the second half to leave Jan Poortvliet's side well beaten.

**April 20, 2013**  
**Premier League - Swansea 0 Saints 0**

**May 3, 2014**  
**Premier League - Swansea 0 Saints 1**

Rickie Lambert's late header gave Saints their first win in Swansea since 1962 - a wait of over half a century!

**September 20, 2014**  
**Premier League - Swansea 0 Saints 1**

Victor Wanyama scored a late winner as Saints won again at the Liberty.

Swansea had seen their star striker, Wilfried Bony, red carded in the first half.

## Sunday football fixtures

CITY OF SOUTHAMPTON SUNDAY LEAGUE

Hampshire Junior B Cup, quarter-final: Hunters Inn v Cove Manor.

Hampshire Junior C Cup, semi-final: Bridge Manor v Winsor Sports, Nursling Sunday v Freehouse.

A J Miller Trophy, quarter-finals: Boyatt Wood Wanderers v Itchen Saints, KRL v GHedge End Athletic, RS Nomanstand v AFC West End, Titans v Hamble Roll Call.

D. R Ryder Trophy, quarter-final: AFC Waterside v AFC Bishopstoke.

Charlie Godden Trophy, quarter-final: Bishops Waltham Dyn v Sporting Compass, Lyndhurst JFC v Unity.

Premier Division: Bush Hill v Sholing United.

Senior Division: Testlands v Bitterne RBL OB, Yacht Tavern v Cricketers Arms Fair Oak.

Junior Division 1: AFC Portswood v Test Valley Spartans, AFC Riverside v C.D.A, AFC Velmore v Chamberlayne Athletic, Lokomotiv Eastleigh v Bishops.

Junior Division 2: AFC Southbrook v Ice Sports, Alderbrook United v Marchwood Rangers.

Junior Division 3: King George v Bitterne Ducks, Mottisfont v Durely, Royale Marine v Whiteheart UNITED.

Junior Division 4: Fawley RBL Res v Burridge, Hedge End City v Portswood United, Sholing Monk v Forest Hoem.

Junior Division 5: Abbotswood v Itchen Hawks, AFC Spitfire v J.S.C.

Junior Division 6: AFC Carnival v Testwood Tornadoes, Chamberlayne Athletic Res v AFC Hedge End Town.

GOSPORT, FAREHAM & SOLENT LEAGUE

Hampshire Junior A Cup, fourth round: Bridgemary Eagles v AFC Gosport, East Lodge v Crofton Saints.

Hamshire Junior B Cup, quarter-final: Hoeford United v Wicor Mill Res.

Bournemouth Electric A v Solent Town.

Portsmouth B Cup, second round: AFC Seaway v Burridge.

Gosport Borough Supporters Cup, second round: Village Home v TML, Castle in the Air v Clarence Tav ern.

Frank & Pat Marsden Challenge Cup, second round: AFC Trades v SSC, Whiteley XI v Wallington Athletic, Wispers v duke of Connaught, AFC Dynamo v AFC Middlecroft, AFC Onecom v AFC Whiteley Res, Bridemary Colts XI v Gipsy Queen, Gosham Rangers v Foresters United, MM Sports v Borough Town.

Division 2: Whiteley v Down End, Bridgemary Colts v Lee CC.

Division 3: Elson Titans v Daedalus, Village Home Res v Jolly Roger, Crofton Saints Res v Queens Head Raiders.

Division 5: Gosport Spartans v Testcombe Athletic.

WINCHESTER & DISTRICT LEAGUE

Jack West Cup, quarter-final: Worthys v South Wonston Swifts.

Premier division: Halfway UNITED V Mucky duck, Owslebury v AFC Allbrook, FC Central v Whitenap.

Division 1: FC Railway v Whalesmead Thistle.

Division 2: AFC Corinthians v FC Common, Hedge End Tigers v Monks, Sutton Scotney, Hedge End Hawks v Ropley.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY YOUTH LEAGUE

Division 1: AFC Portchester v Petersfield Town, AFC Stoneham v Moneyfields.

Gosport v Eastleigh, Sholing v Gosport Falcons, US Portsmouth v Christchurch.

Division 2: Clantield v Ringwood Town, Colden Common v Winchester Castle, Gosport v Eastleigh, Petersfield Town v Sway.

SOUTHAMPTON YOUTH LEAGUE

Under 18

Salvage Cup, second round: Romsey Town Yellow v Salisbury Sparks.

Salvage Cup, third round: Sky Blues v Sholing, Winchester v Chamberlayne Athletic, AFC Stoneham v Hythe & Dibden Rangers, St Francis Rovers v Bitterne, Hythe & Dibden Hawks v Hedge End Rangers White, Raiders v Oakwood, Botley Village v Athletic Romsey.

Division 1: Wellow v Star Soccer.

Division 2: Bush Hill v totton & Eling, Hamble United Red v Romsey Town Cougars.

Division 3: AFC Hittingbury v Folland, Sportstars v Alresford Town.

Division 4: Michelmersh & Timsbury v Hedge End Rangers Red, Wyvern Dragons v S & D.

Under 16

Challenge Trophy, third round: Winchester City v Littleton, Hythe & Dibden Vipers v Eastleigh, AFC Stoneham Rovers v Oaklands Rangers, Botley Village v Colden Common Rangers, Wellow v Sholing, Cockton v Fareham Town, Southside AFC v AFC Fawley.

Division 1: Star Soccer v Romsey Town Crusaders.

Division 2: BTC (So'ton) v Hedge End

Rangers Blue, Romsey Town Panthers v AFC Hittingbury Hawks.

Division 3: AFC Stoneham Royals v Romsey Town Cougars, Hythe & Dibden Turbos v Vics, Oakwood v Sarisbury Sparks Saints.

Division 4: AFC Hittingbury Hurricanes v Wyvern, Bitterne v Chamberlayne Athletic, Sarisbury Sparks Amber v Baddesley Park, Townhill Lingland v Wnsor United.

TYRO SOUTHAMPTON LEAGUE

Under 12

Tyro Challenge Cup, quarter-final: Colden Common Rovers v Soutbrook Rangers.

Division 1: City Central v Pace Cougars.

Division 2: BTC Southampton v Salisbury City, Salisbury United v Wyvern Saints, Warsash Wasps Black v Botley Village Lions.

Division 3: Oakwood Dynamos v Bitterne Black.

Division 4: Eastleigh White v Sarisbury Sparks, Ice Sports v Alresford Town, Pace Panthers v Winchester Blue.

Division 5: Bitterne Red cy Fawley Falcons.

Eastleigh Junior Red v St Francis Knights, Oakwood Rangers v Warsash Wasps White.

Division 6: Botley Village Tigers v Chamberlayne Athletic, Hythe & Dibden Lions v Winsor united Red, QK Southampton v Wellow.

Division 7: St Francis Rangers v AFC Hittingbury Hawks, Stoke Park Rangers v Baddesley Park Templers, Wyvern Sharks v townhill Lingland.

Under 13

Division 1: AFC Hittingbury Hawks v Warsash Wasps, Baddesley Park v Oakwood Terriers, BTC Southampton v Winchester Black.

Division 2: Eastleigh v Colden Common Rovers, Littleton Lions v Sarisbury Sparks Amber, Soccer4all v Pace Pumas.

Division 3: Colden Common Rangers v Hedge End Rangers White, Oakwood Harriers v Deportivo Boca, Salisbury City v Romsey Cougars, Winchester Blue v St Francis Knights.

Division 4: Alresford Town v Pace Panthers, Marchwood Rangers v Bitterne Reds, Oakwood Saints v Romsey Panthers.

Division 5: AFC Stoneham v Wellow, Chamberlayne Athletic v AFC Hittingbury Hurricanes, Hamble United v Fawley Falcons.

Under 14

Tyro challenge Cup, quarter-final: Warsash Wasps v Hamble United.

Division 1: Bitterne Black v Soutbrook United, Botley Village v Whiteley Wanderers, Hedge End Blue v Winchester Black, Totton & Eling Red v Pace Panthers.

Division 2: Littleton Leopards v Eastleigh, Sportstars Tigers v Littleton Lions, Weston Warriors v Bitterne Red.

Division 3: Colden Common Royals v Colden Common Rangers, Sarisbury Sparks v Oakwood Reds, Sholing v Fawley Falcons Strikers, St Francis Rangers v AFC Hittingbury Hawks.

Division 4: Fawley Falcons Fusion v Winsor Sports, Sportstars Panthers v Kingsway Colts, Totton & Eling Black v Alresford Town, Wellow v Stoke Park Rangers.

Division 5: BTC Southampton v New forest, Soccer4all Tigers v Lakewood, South Wilts Soccer School v AFC Stoneham.

Under 15

Tyro Challenge Cup, quarter-final: Stockbridge v Winchester City.

Tommy Traynor Trophy, quarter-finals: Bitterne Black v Hythe & Dibden Phoenix, Hedge End White v Hamble United, Southbrook City v Boca.

Division 1: Hedge end Rangers Blue v Sholing Red.

Division 2: Baddesley Park v Oakwood Eagles, St Francis Rovers v Colden Common Rangers, Warsash Wasps v AFC Stoneham Royals.

Division 3: AFC Stoneham Phoenix v Hythe & Dibden Legends, Ice Sports v Michelmersh & Timsbury.

Division 4: Bitterne Red v AFC Hittingbury, Romsey Town Cougars v Winsor United, Sarisbury Sparks v Romsey yellow, Southside AFC v Rodaway Rovers.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY WOMENS LEAGUE

Division 1: AFC Stoneham v Widbrook, BTC (Southampton) v Mudeford Phoenix, Rushmoor Community v Shanklin Res, Warsash Wasps v Alton United, Winchester Flyers Res v AFC Boscombe.

Division 2: AFC Bournemouth v Widbrook United Res, Basingstoke Res v Gosport Borough, Bournemouth Sports v Bursledon, Hordean v Kingsclere, Southampton Res v QK Southampton.

Division 3: AFC Bournemouth Res v AFC Portchester, Fleet Town Res v AFC Petersfield, Sholing v Portsmouth, Winchester City v Winchester Flyers A.



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K Dawkins	Southampton, Hants	J O'Brien	Southampton, Hants
L Evans	Eastleigh, Hants	M Redfern	Southampton, Hants
A Field	Hedge End, Hants	E Stickland	Southampton, Hants
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An incident in an Eastleigh v Macclesfield match



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# Hampshire Colleges football spotlight

## Taunton's celebrations have to be put on hold after loss

**RICHARD Taunton will have to put their Hampshire Colleges B Division title celebrations on hold for a while yet after a lacklustre performance at Poole Grammar in midweek.**

They went down 3-1 to the Dorset side, who lie second in the log, albeit some way behind RTC, *writes Mike Vimpany.*

Tauntons' would have tied things up at Gravel Hill had they won, but despite taking a first half lead through Otis Connell were below par.

RTC might well have been behind when they took that lead but, after several uneasy moments in their goalmouth, they conceded a messy scrambled equaliser to Poole's Dash Howarth.

Poole had a plethora of chances after that - Ben McKenzie having a shot

saved, Tom Smith twice frustrated - he had a header which hit the bar - and Will Blake skimmed one just too high.

But when Poole did get their noses in front it was a goal of quality which got them there.

Howarth, pictured, let fly with a 30-yarder which screamed into the far corner - a definite candidate for Colleges goal of the season, according to watching adjudicator Dick Batchelor.

### Act together

Poole's second goal completely knocked the sails out of RTC, who were lacking any on pitch leaders.

A headed third goal by Tom Fish from a corner gave Poole a 3-1 advantage.

It could easily have been worse for Tauntons, who will need to get their act together after the half-term break.

In the A Division, Itchen close the

gap on Peter Symonds with a 'no contest' 8-2 win over South Downs, in which Jack Burrows scored four times.

Boxing starlet Ryan Garner packed a punch with two goals, while Jake Willis-Dellimore and Liam Attrill each scored once.

With Itchen losing to Brockenhurst 3-1 last week, it all looks like coming down to PSC's match with Peter Munro Cup finalists Farnborough at Bereweke Avenue on Wednesday week.

Boro' continue to score goals for fun, with Sam Pedersen (2), Ryan McCartney, Dan Muyambi, Rob Colfer and an opposing defender scoring in the 6-0 demolition of Andover.

Hampshire's county representative side lost 4-2 to Kent in the ESFA Under-18 League and face Sussex at Gosport Borough's Privett Park ground on February 22 (7.30).



Dash Howarth



Kings', Winchester. Back (from left): James Pike, Alfie Glover, Joe Sutherden, Alejandro Arguelles, Will Thompson, Jack Down, Kanya Matshweni, Joe Maybe, Connor Nolan. Front: Dan Holt, Nick Doubell, Jonny Phillipson, Olly Hall, Ben Parkinson, Charlie Wallbridge.

## Dramatic semi-final shoot-out success for Kings

KINGS' boys beat Priestlands in a dramatic penalty shoot-out to clinch a Hampshire Schools county Under-16 final slot against Romsey.

They were held 3-3 after extra-time, but won the penalty shoot-out 5-4, *writes Mike Vimpany.*

Priestlands, who had knocked last year's county Under-15 winners Henry Beaufort out in the previous round, scored first through Harry Rose, but Dan

Holt levelled.

Jack Down made it 2-1 for Kings' who wasted a great chance of clinching the tie when Oli Hall saw his penalty kick saved by Priestlands' Jason Shorey.

An equaliser by Rowan Baynton sent the semi-final into extra-time.

Joe Sutherden thought he had won it for Kings' with a late strike, but Priestlands rescued it with a last gasp equaliser

by Tom Rose from the penalty spot.

Kings' held their nerve in the penalty shoot-out - Alfie Glover's save from the second Priestlands' spot kick proving crucial.

Jack Down, Dan Holt, Kanya Matshweni, Nick Doubell and Joe Sutherden all scored to give Kings' a 5-4 win.

Prior to playing Romsey in the county final, Kings' face Henry Beaufort in an Eastleigh

& Winchester Schools Under-16 Cup semi-final.

● Oli Hall and Kanya Matshweni hit hat-tricks as King's thrashed Toynbee 8-0 and tee up a tasty Eastleigh & Winchester District Under-16 Cup semi-final showdown with Henry Beaufort. Dan Holt and Ben Parkinson were also on target.

## Students must wait on rivals

KINGS' of Winchester must wait until after the half-term break to see who they will play in the English Schools FA Under-16 Premier Division Girls Cup final.

They are already through to their first final after thumping Essex-based Shenfield 4-1, *writes Mike Vimpany.*

But the other semi-final tie between St Bedes RC (Blackburn) and Thomas Telford (Shropshire) has yet to take place.

Telford will be the favourites - they are attached to the Wolverhampton Wanderers Academy and would provide a stern test for the Kings' girls in the final.

Kings' overcame a tough tackling Essex side in the semi-final, but put the match beyond Shenfield's reach by scoring three unanswered first half goals.

They were a goal up inside five minutes - Stella Gandee Morgan scoring from the penalty spot after Kate Wiseman had been pulled down.

Ten minutes later accurate and intelligent passing between Alice Nichols and Phoebe Williams culminated in Wiseman doubling Kings' lead.

Strong in defence, Kings' comfortably repelled Shenfield's endeavours to get back into the match and my half-time Kings' were almost out of sight courtesy of a second Kate Wiseman strike, a thunderbolt shot into the top corner.

Shenfield threw themselves a proverbial lifeline with what turned out to be a consolation goal from the penalty spot.

Midway through the second half Kings' tied things up, with Phoebe Williams teeing up a second goal for Stella Gandee Morgan.

## Time to stand up

ENGLAND are being urged to prove their mettle as they seek to reassert their authority over South Africa in the deciding fifth one-day international.

Eoin Morgan's young team - including Hampshire bowler Reece Topley - opened up a 2-0 lead last week. But back-to-back defeats have changed all that and the onus is now on the tourists to demonstrate nerve and resilience in Sunday's decider.

Batting coach Graham Thorpe said: "It's a good test for them."

"You have to stand up and be a man. You've got knocked down; you have to get yourselves back up, dust yourselves down and go again."

"It's mental strength really (that's required)."



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## So where now for Reds boss Klopp?

LIVERPOOL'S FA Cup exit to West Ham has once again led to the spotlight turning on Jurgen Klopp's under-performing side.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at some of the issues the German has to address between now and the end of the season.

### GOALS

Liverpool's four strikers have managed just 18 goals in 62 appearances between them this season, mainly because of injury to Daniel Sturridge, Divock Origi and Danny Ings. Christian Benteke is the club's leading scorer with a paltry seven, while Roberto Firmino, operating in a nominal centre-forward position, and playmaker Philippe Coutinho have six apiece. Sturridge has scored four in just five appearances and his return should change the team's fortunes up front, providing he can remain fit.

### HOME FORM

Talk of making Anfield a fortress has appeared somewhat fanciful, with just four victories in 12 outings there this season. Since Boxing Day, their only win at home has come in the FA Cup against Exeter. With Everton, Manchester City, Chelsea and Tottenham still to visit, there is a chance there may not be too much improvement. It is the visits of Stoke,



Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp

Newcastle and Watford which fans will expect to see statements made.

### WHY ARE WE STILL TALKING ABOUT SET-PIECE WEAKNESSES?

Klopp admits it has become a self-fulfilling prophecy as teams specifically target their vulnerability, so they are more likely to concede. Injuries to every centre-back during the course of the season has led to an ever-changing defence and that has not helped, neither has the unconvincing form of goalkeeper Simon Mignolet.

### STURRIDGE, BENTEKE OR BOTH?

On current evidence Benteke is not worth his place. He lost his place in the first-choice XI to Firmino and 11 matches without a goal has drained his confidence. Sturridge's selection, injuries permitting, is a no-brainer as even after two months out he showed his immense value to the team coming off the bench at West Ham.

### SO DOES THE CLUB'S SECOND MOST EXPENSIVE SIGNING HAVE A FUTURE?

It is difficult to see how the Belgium international fits into the German's plans. Despite playing 22 matches under Klopp, the big striker still appears to lack the tactical awareness to know where he needs to be - and when - and his lack of movement does not fit with the high-pressing game his manager wants to implement.

# Poch: Spurs ready to

**MAURICIO Pochettino believes Tottenham are finally ready to cast off their reputation as serial under-achievers.**

Spurs last won the title in 1961 and the club have picked up only two major trophies since their 1991 FA Cup triumph, lifting the League Cup in 1999 and 2008.

Strong runs in recent seasons have also regularly ended in disappointment.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the 'what might have been' seasons.

### 1984/85

Tottenham ended the season third, but level on points with second-placed Liverpool. Everton, though, were runaway champions 13 points clear.

Still, Peter Shreeve - promoted to manager in the summer of 1984 after Keith Burkinshaw had stepped down following the club's European Cup Winners Cup success - guided the club to their highest league finish since the mid 1960s.

Tottenham topped the table over Christmas and the New Year period, helped by nine wins in a 14-game unbeaten run.

Highlight of the league season was their first win at Anfield since 1912, sealed by a second half goal from Garth Crooks.

A week after that success, in March 1985, Tottenham inflicted a 5-1 beating on Saints. On the day Jimmy Case made his debut for the club, Saints conceded goals to Ossie Ardiles, Glenn Hoddle, Mark Falco, Crooks and Garry Brookes.

### 1986/87

David Pleat guided the north London club to their second third placed finish in three years.

Even though Clive Allen belted 33 top flight goals, the club were still nowhere near the eventual winners - finishing 15 points behind champions Everton.

Tottenham led the table after three games, but a 2-0 loss at The Dell in their fourth game knocked them off top spot, and they were never to retain it.

A run of five successive league wins from the end of January through to March - including a 2-0 White Hart Lane win against Saints, Richard Gough and Steve Hodge on target - briefly raised expectations.

Four defeats in their last seven outings, though, saw them finish six points behind runners-up Liverpool.

Tottenham also lost to arch rivals Tottenham in the League Cup semi finals, and were later beaten 3-2 in a thrilling FA Cup final by Coventry.

In all, Allen scored 49 league and cup goals in 1986/87, a total no top flight striker has managed to beat since. But Tottenham still finished the campaign empty-handed.

### 1989/90

Helped by 23 league goals from Gary Lineker, and with Paul Gascoigne providing the creativity, Tottenham again finished third in



In only his second season, ex-Saints boss Mauricio Pochettino is aiming to bring the title to Tottenham.



Harry Kane celebrates a goal for Tottenham. The England striker will be key to the club's chances of winning the

the top flight.

Again, they were nowhere near the title - champions Liverpool (in the last season the Reds were crowned champions of England) finishing 16 points clear of the north London side. Terry Venables' men were also seven points adrift

of second-placed Aston Villa.

A run of seven wins from their last eight league games catapulted Tottenham up the table, including a last-day 2-1 win over Saints at White Hart Lane with goals from Paul Stewart and Paul Allen.

### 2001/02

Tottenham, in Glenn Hoddle's first full season with the club, reached the League Cup final - only to lose 2-1 to Blackburn Rovers.

### 2005/06

Tottenham went into their final game of the season in fourth slot.

They only had to match Arsenal's

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# o become winners



Toby Alderweireld, pictured here during his loan spell at Saints last season, has been an integral member of the Tottenham defence this term.



Harry Redknapp guided Saints to a fourth place finish during his time at White Hart Lane.

result to guarantee themselves Champions League football for the first time.

But on the morning of their game at West Ham, a number of Tottenham players were taken ill with suspected food poisoning after staying the night at the Marriott Hotel in Canary Wharf.

Despite the score being 1-1 for much of the game, Tottenham looked set to clinch fourth spot due to Arsenal trailing 2-1 at Highbury against Wigan.

However, Arsenal went on to win 4-2 - Thierry Henry scoring a hat-trick - meaning Tottenham also required a win. Their fate was sealed

when Yossi Benayoun scored a winner for West Ham, meaning Tottenham ended fifth..

Tottenham appealed to the Premier League to have the West Ham game replayed, but this was rejected.

Showing how the landscape of English football has changed in a

decade, finishing in the top 10 in 2005/06 were Blackburn (6th), Bolton (8th) and Wigan (10th).

**2008/09**

In Harry Redknapp's first full season in charge, Tottenham reached the League Cup final - losing on penalties to Manchester United.

**2009/10**

For the first time in their history, Tottenham qualified for the Champions League by finishing fourth.

There was more cup disappointment, though.

They faced Portsmouth in the FA Cup semi final as red hot favourites, only to lose 2-0 to Redknapp's former club at Wembley.

**2011/12**

Another classic case of 'what might have been' for Tottenham.

After losing their first two games of the league campaign, Harry Redknapp masterminded 10 wins in 11 matches as Tottenham stormed up to third place.

They held third place from the end of November through to the middle of March.

In the end, they finished fourth for the second time in three seasons - good enough for Champions League football again.

Well, it would have been had Chelsea not won the Champions League by beating Bayern Munich on penalties.

That meant the Blues qualified for the following season's competition, and with England only allowed four clubs it was the top three in the Premier League who also qualified, meaning Tottenham unluckily missed out.

**2014/15**

In Pochettino's first season as manager, Tottenham again reached the League Cup final.

Again they lost, beaten 2-0 by Chelsea.

All those previously mentioned results have meant Tottenham have earned a reputation for falling short when it comes to the crunch.

But Pochettino sees his side, sitting second in the table ahead of this Sunday's clash with Manchester City, as a fresh proposition.

"We are different people now," Pochettino said. "It is difficult to explain but today we live in the present, and the group of players and the staff and the club and the president and the supporters believe we are strong and we can compete in different competitions and we can win every game and this is important."

"To speak about the past is not fair because from the beginning of the season we show with our supporters we can get success from the season."

Pochettino's men beat Watford 1-0 last Saturday and they now sit level on goal difference with Arsenal, one point above Manchester City and five behind Leicester.

The top four play each other this weekend as Tottenham visit the Etihad Stadium, having beaten City 4-1 back in September, while Arsenal host Leicester.

## Moore's not the merrier after sacking

**HARTLEPOOL** this week parted company with manager Ronnie Moore by mutual consent nine months after he pulled off 'the great escape' by keeping them in the Football League.

He is by no means the first manager to leave a club soon after rescuing them from a precarious position.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at some of the others.

**Nigel Pearson**

Leicester became only the third team to avoid relegation from the Premier League after being bottom on Christmas Day at the end of the 2014/15 season. The Foxes won seven of their last nine league games but Pearson was sacked a month later after his position became untenable following his son's role in a sex tape released on social media during a post-season tour of Thailand.

**Dick Advocaat**

Sunderland also came close to losing their Premier League status in the same season but Dutchman Advocaat guided them on a run of just one defeat in their last six matches and they finished three points clear of the relegation zone. Advocaat resigned in October the following season.



**Nigel Pearson kept Leicester up last season.**

**Paolo Di Canio**

The Italian was tasked with keeping Sunderland in the English top flight when appointed in March 2013 and although he won only two of his seven games in charge at the end of the 2012/13 season, draws in two of their last three games were enough to keep them up. Despite this success, Di Canio's relationship with the club and its players deteriorated and he was sacked the following September.

**Graham Rix**

The former Arsenal midfielder kept Portsmouth up against the odds with a 3-0 win against Barnsley on the last day of 2000/01 having failed to win any of their previous nine matches. But Rix struggled for results the following term and was replaced by director of football Harry Redknapp midway through the next season. He is now managing Wessex Leaguers AFC Portchester.

**Brian Flynn**

Flynn took charge of Swansea in September 2002 with the Welsh club bottom of the old Third Division. The Swans' Football League status was still in jeopardy on the final day but a 4-2 home win against Hull saved them. Flynn lost only two of his first 10 league games the next season but he departed the following March.

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# Foxes aiming to follow in footsteps of Brian Clough ...

**LEICESTER are now favourites to win the Barclays Premier League after being 5,000-1 at the start of the season.**

The Foxes are five points clear at the top with 13 games left and the Sports Pink looks at some underdogs who upset the odds to secure league titles.

## NOTTINGHAM FOREST 1977-78

The idea of a newly-promoted team securing the English top tier title now seems absurd but Forest achieved it in 1978.

Under Brian Clough they finished third in the Second Division the season before, ahead of Bolton and Blackpool by just a point.

But led by Martin O'Neill, Peter Shilton, Peter Withe and John McGovern they took the title by seven points ahead of Liverpool. It was a season where Leicester finished bottom.

Forest also won the League Cup that season and - a year later - became champions of Europe.

They also retained the League Cup in 1978/79 - beating Saints 3-2 at Wembley in the final - and the following year retained the European Cup by beating Kevin Keegan's Hamburg 1-0.

## IPSWICH 1961/62

Sir Alf Ramsey led the unfashionable Suffolk club to the second division championship title in 1960/61.

That season they were thrashed 7-1 at The Dell by Saints in the third round of the FA Cup.

Twelve months after winning promotion to the top flight, Ramsey had guided Ipswich to what remains the club's only ever First Division title.

## DERBY 1971/72

Rams had finished ninth the year before - 23 points adrift of leaders Arsenal (and this is the day of just two points for a win).

But under the mercurial Brian Clough, they claimed the title for the first time in the club's history.

In a thrilling finale, the Rams finished just a solitary point ahead of three clubs - Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester City.

## VERONA 1984-85

Currently bottom of Serie A with just one win from 24 games, Verona pulled off a major shock to claim the title in 1985.

They had finished fourth and sixth in Serie A in their first seasons after being promoted in 1982.

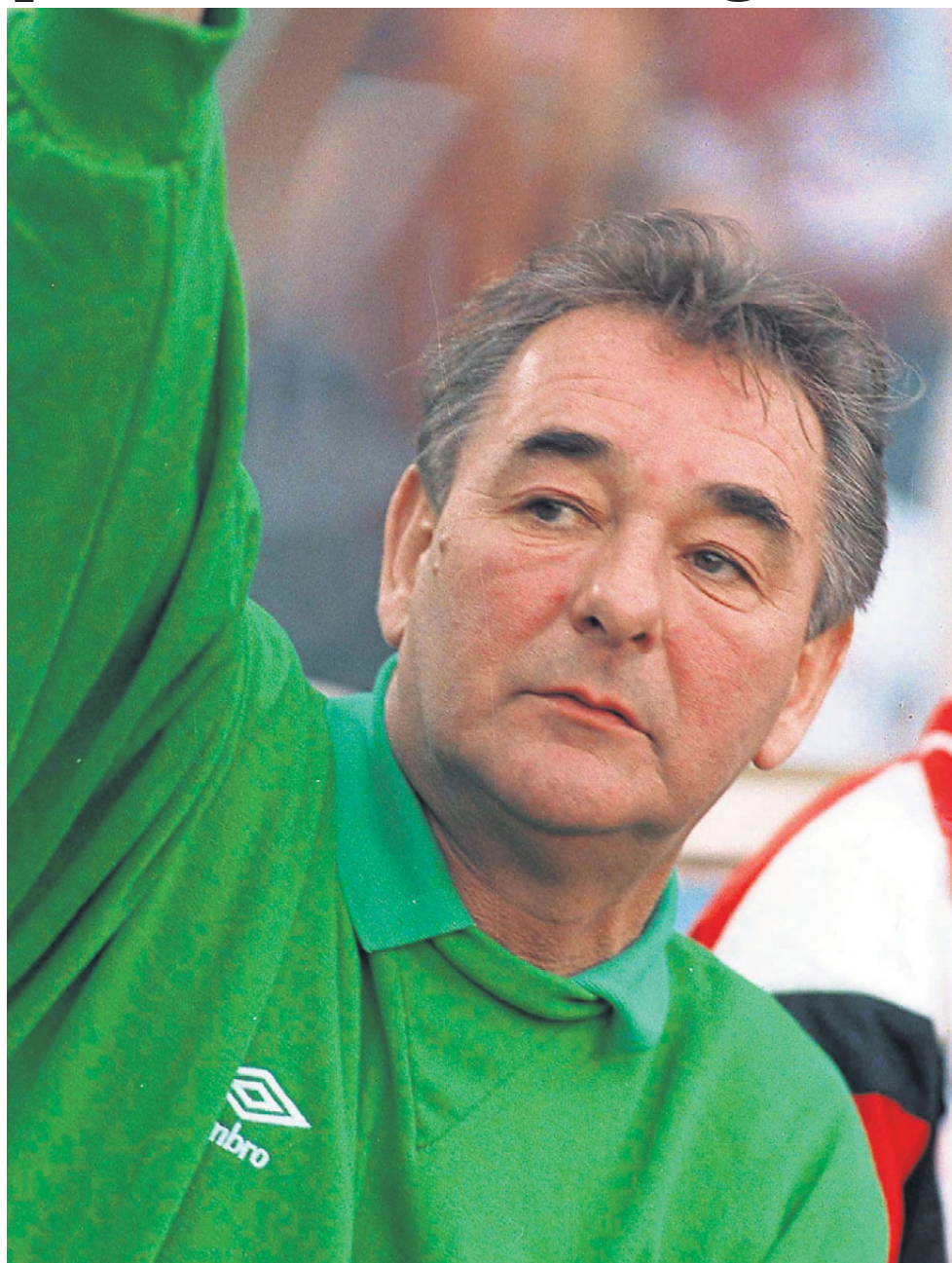
A 1-1 draw against Atalanta secured the title with a game to spare, four points clear of Torino with Inter Milan second and Sampdoria third.

It remains Verona's only Serie A title and they ended an 11-year top flight absence with promotion in 2013.

## MONTPELLIER 2011-12

Monaco, St Etienne and Bordeaux had won the French title as promoted clubs but Montpellier's Ligue 1 triumph in 2012 eclipsed them after the landscape changed following heavy investment at Paris St Germain.

The Qatari takeover of the club in



Brian Clough guided both Derby County and Nottingham Forest to surprise top flight titles in the 1970s.

2011 saw them sign Javier Pastore, Thiago Motta and Alex that summer but Montpellier shocked the newly rich side, winning the title by three points.

They had finished 2010-11 a lowly 14th - the same spot Leicester ended last season - and just three points above the relegation zone.

Olivier Giroud's 21 goals helped Montpellier to the top before he joined Arsenal in 2012.

## ATLETICO MADRID 2013-14

Atletico ended nine years of Barcelona and Real Madrid title dominance when they claimed La Liga two

years ago.

It was their first title since 1996 and 10th in their history after a 1-1 draw at the Nou Camp confirmed their crown, ensuring they finished three points clear of Barca and their city rivals.

Diego Simeone's side lost only four times all season, conceding just 26 goals in 38 league games and beat Real 1-0 in the Bernabeu in the September.

Diego Costa's 27 league goals spearheaded their charge, paving the way for his move to Chelsea, while David Villa netted 13 times.

## CAGLIARI

The unfashionable club, who had made their Serie A debut in 1967, won the Italian League title for the only time in their history three years later.

They only lost two Serie A games all season and conceded just 11 goals (the fewest in any major European league to date).

Legendary striker Luigi Riva was the league's top scorer and along with a handful of his clubmates - Albertosi, Niccolai, Boninsegna, Gori, Cera and Domenghini a - went on to play in Italy's 1970 World Cup Final team.

## Sunday's top flight clashes

### Arsenal v Leicester

Arsenal's finishing has been wasteful at the Emirates this season, with the average of 4.3 shots on target taken for each goal scored more than any other home side. Such profligacy could cost them against leaders Leicester, who have converted their shots on target more efficiently than anyone else on their travels, with every 2.5 resulting in a goal on average. The Gunners have started matches well, with only Swansea having scored a higher percentage of goals in the first half of matches than their 54 per cent. The Foxes have tended to strike much later, with 66 per cent - almost two thirds - of their goalscoring occurring after the break, which means the home side appear the more likely to break the deadlock.

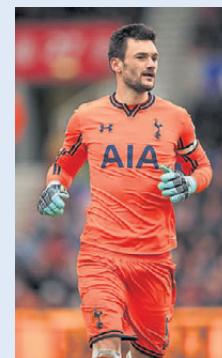
### Aston Villa v Liverpool

This match brings together the two most wasteful finishers in the division, with the average of 12.7 shots taken by Liverpool for each goal only slightly better than Villa's 13.5, so we may not be inundated with goals here. No side has scored a larger proportion of their goals after half-time than Aston Villa's 70 per cent and Liverpool are not far behind with 63 per cent. The Reds have also seen 60 per cent of their opponents' shots taken after the interval - the second highest share - which makes a late Villa strike even more likely.

### Man City v Tottenham

Tottenham should not be underestimated: they are the only Premier League side to have carved out more shots on target than opponents Manchester City. The average of 6.7 they take per match comfortably exceeds both City's 5.8 and the division's average of 4.1, while Spurs have also allowed the fewest in return.

Opponents have troubled Hugo Lloris at a rate of just 2.9 times per match and this has actually dropped to 2.5 on the road, so City could well end up losing two consecutive home matches to a title rival.



Hugo Lloris



# Eastleigh and Winchester Sports Awards evenings

**THE achievements of sporting stars, coaches and volunteers were recognised at the Winchester District Sport and Physical Activity Alliance eighth annual sports awards.**

A record 97 nominations were made across the 16 categories.

Awards were handed out by Cllr Angela Clear, the Mayor of Winchester.

Andrew Douglas (Squash, Winchester Racquets & Fitness Club) and Adam Corcoran (Athletics, Southampton Athletics Club) shared the Junior Sportsman award, while Winchester squash player Megan Thomas won the Junior Sportswoman prize.

Commonwealth Games medallist Kelly Simm (Dynamo School of Gymnastics) was voted the Senior Sportswoman of 2015. During last year she was part of the GB team that won bronze at the World Championships.

## WINNERS

Junior Sportsman – Andrew Douglas (Squash – Winchester Racquets & Fitness Club) & Adam Corcoran (Athletics – Southampton Athletics Club)  
Junior Sportswoman – Megan Thomas (Squash – Winchester Tennis & Squash Club)  
Junior Disability Sportsperson – Richard Mozsa & Jack Gawthorne (Ju Jitsu – Tenki



Winchester award winners: Pic courtesy Winchester City Council.

Ryu Martial Arts Academy)  
Senior Disability Sportsperson – Andy Perry (Multi-Sports – Winchester Multi-Sport Disability Club)  
Senior Sportsman – Kelly Simm (Gymnastics – Dynamo School of Gymnastics)  
Masters Sportsperson – Rory Fitzgerald (Swimming – Winchester City Penguins

Swimming Club)  
Junior Team – Winchester City Penguins  
Senior Team – Winchester Racquets & Fitness 70+ Team  
Participation Coach – Michele Ward (Cycling – Velo Club Venta)  
Performance Coach – Kathryn Hurrell (Badminton – Westgate Performance Centre) & Kim Hill

(Swimming – Winchester City Penguins  
Swimming Club)  
Junior Volunteer – Edward Lewis (Volleyball – Peter Symonds College Volleyball Team)  
Senior Volunteer – Thelma Hawkings (Swimming – Winchester City Penguins)  
Club – Winchester City Basketball Club  
Service to Sport – Maureen Reader (Gymnastics – Winchester Gymnastics Club)

Best Charity Fundraising Activity – Clarendon Marathon – JJ Heath-Caldwell (Winchester Rotary Club)  
Outstanding Achievement – Blueprint (Integr8 Dance)

**Picture special on pages 32 and 33.**

# Celebrating sporting successes

**OLYMPIC hopeful Kelly Simm scooped her second Sports Award inside six days.**

Fresh from winning the senior sportswomen prize at the Winchester Sports Awards, she picked up the Senior Sportsperson silverware when the Eastleigh Sports Awards were held at the Hilton Hotel.

Gymnast Simm lives in the Winchester area but her club, Dynamo School of Gymnastics, are within the Eastleigh district.

The Southampton Solent University student helped the Great Britain Women's Artistic Team to win bronze at the World Championships in Glasgow in 2015.

The awards evening was organised by Eastleigh's Sport and Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA).

## Other awards

Participation Coach of the Year: Hayley Payne (Eastleigh Running Club).

Performance Coach of the Year: Stuart O'Connor (Poseidon Boxing Club).

Senior Sportsperson of the Year: Kelly Simm.

Senior Disability Sportsperson of the Year: David Smith (Boccia) ended 2015 ranked second in the world and Great Britain's number one.

Junior Disability Sportsperson of the Year: Liam Hall won the junior title for the second year running due to his continued improvement and the progress he has made in Goalball.

Sports Team of the Year: Fair Oak CC 1st XI won all their Hampshire League and T20 games in 2015.

Junior Sportsman of the Year: Ethan Smith is the youngest full member of Team GB for



Eastleigh Sports award winners. Pictures courtesy Dan Wilson.

Snowboard Cross and the only Team GB dual discipline athlete.

Junior Sportswoman of the Year: Athlete Grace Griffiths achieved Championship Best Performance in the 200m at the Hampshire County Championships, and won gold in the 200m National Finals. She is also ranked 6th in the UK Pentathlon.

Junior Volunteer of the Year: Jordan Fugh won the title for the commitment and dedication he has given to Fleming Park Judo Club.

Senior Volunteer of the Year: Dan Rush of Poseidon Amateur Boxing Club, who has cerebral palsy, won this award.

Outstanding Personal Achievement: Russell Hersey (Judo) underwent major heart surgery but quickly recovered to win his black belt in 2015.

Club of the Year: Fair Oak CC.

Service to Sport: Gwen Silvester founded

Swan Netball Club in 1982. She wanted to start a club for mums with young families and formed a Netball Club based at Crestwood School. More than 30 years on she is still a very active volunteer and a well-loved member of the Swan netball family, which boasts 17 teams and over 300 people.

Keith Richardson established Dynamo School of Gymnastics in 1986.

Gordon Kemish started Judo in 1975 and is head coach at Fleming Park Judo.

1 Two-page picture special on pages 30 and 31.



# EASTLEIGH SPORTS AWARDS EVENING



Service to sport award winners Gwen Silvester, left, Keith Richardson, second left, and Gordon Kemish, right.



David Smith, above, won the Disability Sportsman of the year award. Former Paralympian gold medallist Peter Hull, right, collected the award on David's behalf.



Club of the year award - Fair Oak Cricket Club.



Mark Smith picks up the Young Sportsman of the year award on behalf of his son, Ethan, above



Outstanding personal achievement - Russell Hersey, right



Junior Sportswoman Grace Griffiths.



Liam Hall won the Junior Disability of the year award

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Senior volunteer of the year Dan Rush, right. Pix by Dan Wilson.



Kelly Simm collects the Senior Sportsperson award



Kevan James, left, chats to Kelly Simm, Daisy Robinson and Peter Hull



Jordan Fugh, right, collects the Junior Volunteer of the Year award



Team of the year - Fair Oak CC.



Performance coach of the year Stuart O'Connor, right



Participation coach of the year Hayley Payne, right.



Ex-Saints star Francis Benali addresses the audience.

## FOOTBALL FIXTURES

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Tuesday, February 16  
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Braintree v Boreham  
Wood, Cheltenham v  
Kidderminster, Gateshead  
v Eastleigh, Guiseley v  
Grimsby, Torquay v FC  
Halifax.

VANARAMA NATIONAL  
LEAGUE SOUTH  
Basingstoke v Sutton,  
Ebbsfleet v St Albans,  
Havant & Waterlooville v  
Bishop's Stortford, Truro  
v Hemel Hempstead,  
Weston-super-Mare v Hayes  
& Yeading, Whitehawk v  
Eastbourne Borough.  
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN  
LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Bideford  
v Redditch, Cirencester  
v Slough, Kettering v  
Frome, Paulton Rovers v  
Chippenham (7.30), Poole  
Town v Biggleswade, St  
Neots v Hitchin, Stratford  
v Kings Lynn, Weymouth v  
Chesham.

Division One South & West:  
Bashley v Mangotsfield,  
Cinderford v Wimborne,  
Didcot v Burnham,  
Shortwood v Bridgwater.  
HAMPSHIRE FA SENIOR  
CUP

Quarter-final: Basingstoke  
Town v Totton & Eling or  
Horndean.  
SYDENHAMS WESSEX  
LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Alresford  
v Moneyfields, Fareham  
Town v Brockenhurst,  
Horndean v Hamworthy  
Utd, Newport IoW v  
Sholing.

Division One: Laverstock  
& Ford v East Cowes Vics,  
Hythe & Dibden v Portland,  
Ringwood v Alton.  
SOUTHAMPTON SENIOR  
CUP

Quarter-finals@ Lymington  
Town v Team Solent,  
Romsey Town v Blackfield  
& Langley.

Wednesday, February 17  
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN  
LEAGUE  
Division One South & West:  
North Leigh v Bishops  
Cleeve.  
Red Insure Cup, quarter-  
final: Winchester City  
v Goldalming Town or  
Northwood.  
SYDENHAMS WESSEX  
LEAGUE  
Premier Division:

Whitchurch v Folland  
Sports.  
Division One: Amesbury  
v Totton & Eling,  
Andover New Street v US  
Portsmouth.  
WILTSHIRE SENIOR CUP  
Bemerton HH v Melksham,  
Salisbury v Corsham.  
PUMA ENGINEERING  
HAMPSHIRE PREMIER  
LEAGUE  
PEHPL Cup, semi-final:  
Hamble Club v Paulsgrove  
(at Locks Heath FC, 7.15).

Thursday, February 18  
SYDENHAMS WESSEX  
LEAGUE  
Premier Division:  
Moneyfields v Fawley AFC.

Saturday, February 20  
VANARAMA NATIONAL  
LEAGUE  
Altrincham v Guiseley,  
Barrow v Braintree,  
Boreham Wood v Torquay,  
Bromley v Woking, FC  
Halifax v Grimsby, Forest  
Green Rovers v Eastleigh,  
Gateshead v Aldershot,  
Kidderminster v Chester,  
Lincoln v Southport,  
Macclesfield v Dover,  
Tranmere v Cheltenham,  
Welling v Wrexham.

VANARAMA NATIONAL  
LEAGUE SOUTH  
Basingstoke v Maidenhead,  
Bath City v St Albans,  
Bishops Stortford v  
Maidstone, Chelmsford  
v Margate, Concord  
v Gosport Borough,  
Eastbourne Borough v  
Dartford, Hayes & Yeading  
v Oxford City, Hemel  
Hempstead v Sutton,  
Truro v Ebbsfleet, Weston-  
super-Mare v Wealdstone,  
Whitehawk v Havant &  
Waterlooville.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN  
LEAGUE  
Premier Division:  
Cambridge City v  
Biggleswade, Chesham  
v Histon, Frome v  
Chippenham, Hitchin v  
Hungerford, Kettering v  
Dunstable, Kings Lynn v  
Bedworth, Merthyr Town  
v Dorchester, Paulton  
Rovers v Stratford, Poole  
Town v Bideford, Slough  
v Leamington, St Neots  
v Redditch, Weymouth v  
Cirencester.

Division One South &  
West: Bashley v AFC  
Totton, Bishops Cleeve v  
Banbury, Bridgwater v  
Wimborne, Cinderford  
v Taunton, Evesham v  
Shortwood, Mangotsfield v  
Larkhall, Marlow v Didcot,  
North Leigh v Wantage,  
Slimbridge v Swindon  
Supermarine, Tiverton v  
Yate, Winchester City v  
Burnham.

FA VASE  
Quarter-final: Salisbury v  
Ashford Utd.  
SYDENHAMS WESSEX  
LEAGUE



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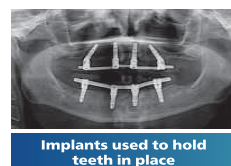
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## England's highest ODI innings

ENGLAND'S sudden change of pace in 50-over cricket has brought them five of their seven all-time highest one-day international totals in just the last eight months.

Here, the Sports Pink charts the dramatic improvement:

June 9, 2015 - 408 for nine, v New Zealand at Edgbaston

The revolution begins, with England's 'daddy' total to date in this statement of intent. They promised to shed the shackles that wrecked their World Cup four months previously, and centuries Joe Root and Jos Buttler did the deed in a 210-run win. Fourteen sixes in the innings was also a new national record - but not for long.

June 12, 2015 - 365 for nine, v New Zealand at The Oval

Three days later, and England were at it again - yet in defeat this time, as New Zealand landed the next blow to level a power-packed series. The hosts fell 13 runs short, on Duckworth-Lewis, but had already proved Birmingham was no fluke.

June 17 - 350 for three, v New Zealand at Trent Bridge

England had made a mere 302 all out, well inside their 50 overs, to lose in



England's big-hitting batsman Jos Buttler celebrates a century. Southampton - but up to Nottingham, they levelled the series again with a display of massive potential. Thanks to Root once more and this time captain Eoin Morgan, both with hundreds in a stand of 198, England cruised past a target of 349 for seven - with six overs, and seven wickets, to spare.

November 20, 2015 - 355 for five, v Pakistan in Dubai

This one was all about Buttler. Promoted to number four, with England already setting a decent total on the back of Jason Roy's maiden international hundred, the wicketkeeper-batsman - back against the white ball after losing form and being dropped from the Test team - smashed his own record for England's fastest hundred, from 61 balls to 46. Unsurprisingly, it was all too much for their desert hosts as England won the series 3-1.

Feb 3, 2016 - 399 for nine, v South Africa at Bloemfontein

England began the series in South Africa with their highest overseas total. Promoted to four for the second successive match, Buttler smacked a 73-ball hundred. With three more individual half-centuries, England upped that innings six-hitting record to 15 on the way to a 39-run D/L win.

# Dale: Why Liam rem

**AS the non-striker when Ben Stokes hit the first five balls of a Liam Dawson over for six five years ago, Hampshire coach Dale Benkenstein offers a unique insight into the England new boy's character.**

Benkenstein, who has worked alongside Hampshire director of cricket Giles White for the last two seasons, was batting for Durham at the Ageas Bowl when Stokes came within one maximum of joining the great Sir Garry Sobers in the record books in April 2011, *writes SIMON WALTER.*

The South African was coming towards the end of an unbroken 140-run partnership with Stokes when Durham's then 19-year-old wunderkind launched his quintet, sending four back over Dawson's head and sweeping the other, shortly after reaching the third of his 11 first-class centuries.

When Stokes' fifth six landed on the roof of a temporary structure at the Northern End, Benkenstein offered Hampshire's slow left-arm-er a few cheeky words of advice.

"I told Daws to lob up the last ball as it was a great chance to bowl himself into the record books!" laughs Benkenstein, as he recalls a lengthy delay during which the 21-year-old prepared to avoid becoming only the second player to concede six sixes in a County Championship over.

A wry smile crossed Dawson's lips, but he was determined to avoid a repeat of Malcolm Nash's famous over against the great Sobers, for Glamorgan against Nottinghamshire at Swansea in 1968.

With his dad Andy looking on, Dawson speared the last ball at Stokes' toes, restricting his former England U19 teammate to a single to fine-leg.

"Nic Pothas came up to give him some advice and he bowled a very quick yorker!" chuckles Benkenstein.

"Daws' has got a lot of pride in his performance. Although Stokesy hit some unbelievably big sixes in that over - some of them landed in the car park - there was no way he was hitting that last one for six!"

"Daws showed that he's a fighter and a winner."

That 'ticker' is one of the attributes that persuaded new England coach Trevor Bayliss to include Dawson in his 15-man World T20 squad this week, on the basis of a few net sessions.

It also reminds Benkenstein of Stokes himself.

"They're similar characters from similar backgrounds with a similar ability to affect a game," explains Benkenstein.

"The great thing about Daws' is he has three different facets to his game. Like Stokesy, he gives teams a balance.

"When I played against him for



Ben Stokes launches his fifth successive six against Liam Dawson at The Ageas Bowl in 2011 (Pic by Neil Marshall)



Liam Dawson, middle, celebrates a wicket for England Lions.

Durham against Hampshire, we were more wary of the likes of [Sean] Ervine, [Neil] McKenzie and [Dimi] Mascarenhas.

"But then Daws would come in with a match-winning 60 or 70 and make the difference.

"Not everything comes together

at the same time, but he has two other avenues in which he can contribute.

"If he's not bowling great, he takes phenomenal catches."

Benkenstein is confident Dawson's all-round skills will see him follow Stokes into England's teams

in all formats.

"Fifty-over cricket is his best format with bat and ball, that's where he's most comfortable, but Daws' also loves T20 and has the ability to change a game with bat and ball in that format too.

"His four-day career is really only

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# inds me of Stokesy



**Liam Dawson was a shock selection for England's T20 World Cup squad.**

just starting. He's a very experienced first-class cricketer who's played over 100 first-class games, but is still very young.

"There's still a lot of room for him to improve, he can become a very good Test player. He's done a lot of work with [former England slow left-armers] Ian Blackwell,

who he can discuss things with at any time.

"Batting for me is a more demanding skill which takes longer to mature, but towards the end of last season he really showed what he can do.

"Put all that together with his catching and he's an invaluable all-

round asset. The way he's played for the Lions will have given him a lot of confidence as well as experience and this [call-up] can really help him to fulfill his potential."

Dawson, who will be 26 next month, has only played one more T20 game for Hampshire in the last two seasons (six) than he has for

the Lions in the last two months.

But since returning from a loan spell at Essex last July he has been outstanding.

He finished the season averaging more with the bat than the ball in the 50-over Royal London One-Day Cup (64/22) and the Championship (37/34) - the sign of a genuine all-rounder.

An injury to Surrey's Zafar Ansari opened the way for his Lions call-up.

Having leapfrogged former Hampshire teammate Danny Briggs in the pecking order at both county and England level, he outbowled Stephen Parry, another rival left-armers, during the Lions' 3-0 T20 series win against Pakistan A in December, taking four wickets at 25.5 apiece as well as topping the batting averages with 98.

As the Lions' leading all-rounder during the 3-2 50-over series defeat to the same opposition last month (171 runs at 34.2 and eight wickets at 26), Dawson completed an outstanding two months in his first sustained England representative spell since playing alongside Stokes for the U19s.

"It's been an incredible turnaround, it's amazing how quickly things change," continued Benkenstein, who has been impressed with Dawson's response to being left out of Hampshire's side during the group stage of last season's Nat-west T20 Blast.

"Everyone has known his talent, but it's been a bit of a rollercoaster for Daws in the last couple of years.

"He's also had some tough times. Last year was not easy for him, we had a very successful T20 team and didn't realise how well Will Smith would do when Daws was out injured.

"But Daws came out of it strong, he came back in for the 50-over stuff and was our best player. He also took on the spinner's role [in the Championship] and scored consistent runs."

Dawson last made national headlines in 2012, when he twice dismissed Kevin Pietersen first ball.

A month after being dismissed for a diamond duck at The Oval, Pietersen was booed off in his first game back at The Ageas Bowl after Dawson bowled him with a crack-erjack delivery in a 40-over match.

For many years, Pietersen was Hampshire's sole representative in England's squad, the exceptions being when the likes of Shaun Udal, Dimi Mascarenhas, Chris Tremlett and Michael Carberry were involved.

How refreshing to now see two homegrown Hampshire players in an England squad, as well as new signing Reece Topley.

It is easy to overlook the fact that James Vince only has three T20 caps himself. Not so long ago, he and Dawson were playing together for Chippenham U13s, Wiltshire and the Hampshire academy.

Now they are on the cusp of playing at a World Cup together.

## Murray joins the tennis 'dad' clan

Andy Murray and wife Kim are celebrating following the birth of their baby girl.

Murray becomes the latest high-profile tennis star to become a father, and it is sure to have an impact on his life on court as well as off.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at how tennis-playing dads have fared.

### Roger Federer

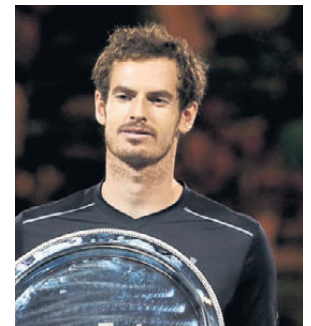
Not only arguably the greatest player of all time, Federer sets the standard for tennis fathers as well by travelling around the world accompanied by wife Mirka and their two sets of twins. His daughters, Charlene and Myla, were born in 2009 and are regularly seen at his matches, while Leo and Lenny joined the clan in 2014. Only two of Federer's 17 grand slam titles came as a father.

### Novak Djokovic

Djokovic's son Stefan was born in October 2014, since when he has lost only six matches, won four grand slam titles and 11 other tournaments, failing to reach the final of an event just once.

### Lleyton Hewitt

Hewitt hung up his racquet after defeat in the second round of the Australian Open last month and was



**New father Andy Murray**

joined on court by his three children - 10-year-old Mia, seven-year-old Cruz and five-year-old Ava - for an emotional farewell. All Hewitt's slam final appearances came before fatherhood.

### Andre Agassi

Agassi and wife Steffi Graf have two children - 14-year-old son Jaden and 12-year-old daughter Jaz. Agassi enjoyed a golden twilight to a career of many highs and lows, winning his final slam title as a father at the Australian Open in 2003 and later that season becoming, at 33, the oldest player to hold the world number one ranking.

### Boris Becker

Becker won the last of his six slam titles at the Australian Open in 1996, two years after the birth of Noah, the oldest of his four children.

### Ivan Lendl

Not all tennis players have been so positive about mixing professional sport and parenthood. Lendl said: "I think the moment you have kids it can't work because either you cheat your tennis or you cheat your kids." He won the last of his eight slam titles a few months prior to the birth of the first of his five daughters but played for another four years.



# SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

## Barclays Premier League

<b>AFC Bournemouth</b> .....1	<b>Stoke</b> .....3
Ritchie 57	Imbulu 9
	Afellay 52
	Joselu 55
	Att 10,863
HT 0-1	
<b>Chelsea</b> .....L	<b>Newcastle</b> .....L
HT L-L	
<b>Crystal P.</b> .....1	<b>Watford</b> .....2
Adebayor 45	Deeney 16 pen,82
HT 1-1	
<b>Everton</b> .....0	<b>W.B.A.</b> .....1
HT 0-1	Rondon 14
<b>Norwich</b> .....2	<b>West Ham</b> .....2
Brady 54	Payet 74
Hoolahan 65	Noble 77
HT 0-0	Att 27,101
<b>Sunderland</b> .....2	<b>Man Utd.</b> .....1
Khazi 3	Martial 39
De Gea 82 og	
HT 1-1	Att 41,687
<b>Swansea</b> .....0	<b>SAINTS</b> .....1
HT 0-0	Long 69
	Att 20,890

	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Leicester	25	7	4	1	21	13	8	4	1	26	14	53
Tottenham	25	7	4	2	23	9	6	5	1	22	10	48
Arsenal	25	7	3	2	16	7	7	3	3	23	15	48
Man City	25	9	1	3	34	15	5	4	3	13	11	47
Man Utd	26	6	4	2	15	5	5	4	5	18	19	41
<b>SAINTS</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>40</b>
West Ham	26	5	5	2	20	14	5	5	4	20	17	40
Watford	26	5	3	5	13	11	5	3	5	16	17	36
Stoke	26	5	2	5	13	13	5	4	5	14	19	36
Everton	26	4	4	6	27	23	4	7	1	19	12	35
Liverpool	25	4	5	3	16	17	5	3	5	16	19	35
Crystal P	26	4	2	8	15	19	5	3	4	12	13	32
W.B.A.	26	4	4	5	15	18	4	4	5	9	14	32
Chelsea	25	4	5	4	21	20	3	4	5	12	15	30
Bournemouth	26	3	4	6	15	21	4	3	6	15	23	28
Swansea	26	4	5	5	13	18	2	4	6	11	16	27
Newcastle	25	4	5	4	20	18	2	1	9	6	26	24
Norwich	26	4	4	5	18	20	2	2	9	12	30	24
Sunderland	26	4	3	6	15	14	2	2	9	17	36	23
A. Villa	25	2	4	6	10	14	1	3	9	10	26	16

## SkyBet Championship

<b>Blackburn</b> .....0	<b>Hull</b> .....2
HT 0-0	Hernandez 53
<b>Brighton</b> .....3	<b>Bolton</b> .....2
Murphy 11	Diane 63
Hamed 43	Att 13,902
Kayal 58	
HT 2-1	
<b>Bristol C</b> .....2	<b>Ipswich</b> .....1
Flint 20,35	Pitman 61
HT 2-0	Att 15,736
<b>Charlton</b> .....0	<b>Cardiff</b> .....0
HT 0-0	Att 16,755
<b>Derby City</b> .....0	<b>M K Dons</b> .....1
HT 0-0	Forster-Caskey 82
<b>Nottm For</b> .....0	<b>Huddersfld</b> .....2
HT 0-0	Att 30,075
<b>Q.P.R.</b> .....1	<b>Fulham</b> .....3
Chery 90	McCormack 35
HT 0-1	Dermot 40
	Carney 45
	Att 17,335
<b>Reading</b> .....0	<b>Burnley</b> .....0
HT 0-0	Att 16,773
<b>Rotherham</b> .....0	<b>Birmingham</b> .....0
HT 0-0	Att 11,018
<b>Sheff Wed</b> .....4	<b>Brentford</b> .....0
Fiori 12	
Hooper 30	
Lee 45	
Lucas Joao 89	
HT 3-0	Att 20,921
<b>Wolves</b> .....1	<b>Preston</b> .....2
Mason 66	Gallagher 17
HT 0-1	Reach 53
	Att 21,204

	HOME						AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Hull	30	11	2	1	30	6	7	3	6	17	13	59	
Middlesbrough	29	10	3	2	21	4	7	3	4	18	12	57	
Burnley	31	10	3	2	30	12	5	8	3	18	14	56	
Brighton	30	11	2	3	23	15	4	9	1	17	15	56	
Sheff Wed	31	10	5	1	32	13	4	6	5	17	20	53	
Derby City	31	7	6	3	24	13	6	6	3	16	14	51	
Birmingham	31	7	2	6	17	16	6	7	3	21	14	48	
Ipswich	31	6	6	3	20	16	7	3	6	20	23	48	
Cardiff	31	7	7	1	21	13	4	6	6	17	20	46	
Nottm For	31	6	6	4	20	14	4	6	5	11	13	42	
Preston	31	5	6	4	14	14	5	6	5	15	12	40	
Wolves	31	4	6	6	20	23	6	4	5	20	19	40	
Brentford	31	6	3	6	19	21	5	4	7	23	27	40	
Q.P.R.	31	5	8	3	24	20	4	4	7	13	18	39	
Reading	31	6	7	3	17	10	3	3	9	16	23	37	
Leeds Utd	30	4	5	6	12	16	4	7	4	17	18	36	
Huddersfld	31	5	4	6	24	19	4	4	8	18	25	35	
Fulham	30	4	5	6	24	24	3	6	6	23	26	32	
Blackburn	29	3	7	4	12	11	3	6	6	13	16	31	
M K Dons	31	6	2	7	14	20	2	5	9	11	22	31	
Bristol C	31	4	6	6	17	23	3	4	8	10	25	31	
Rotherham	31	5	3	8	22	27	2	2	11	14	28	26	
Charlton	31	3	7	6	15	23	2	3	10	11	33	25	
Bolton	31	4	8	3	17	16	0	4	12	13	36	24	

## SkyBet League One

<b>Blackpool</b> .....2	<b>Shrewsbury</b> .....3
Aldred 36	Knight-Percival 5
Philliskirk 54	Whalley 7
HT 1-3	Mangan 29
	Att 6,873

<b>Colchester</b> .....1	<b>Swindon</b> .....4
Edwards 64	Aljose 58,56
	Dougherty 58,72
	Att 3,269
HT 0-1	
<b>Coventry</b> .....6	<b>Bury</b> .....0
Stokes 4	
Cargill 12	
Maddison 16	
Fleck 43	
Armstrong 68,70	
<b>Crews</b> .....1	<b>Walsall</b> .....1
Imman 49	Bradshaw 32 pen
HT 0-1	Att 5,123
<b>Doncaster</b> .....0	<b>Sheff Utd</b> .....1
HT 0-1	Adams 42
	Att 10,168
<b>Gillingham</b> .....2	<b>Barnsley</b> .....1
Samuel 25	Hounthorne 62
Dack 63	
HT 1-0	Att 5,887
<b>Peterboro</b> .....0	<b>Bradford</b> .....4
HT 0-0	Hanson 45,68
	Reid 56
	Davies 77
	Att 5,816
<b>Port Vale</b> .....0	<b>Fleetwood Town</b> .....0
HT 0-0	Att 4,194
<b>Rochdale</b> .....0	<b>Millwall</b> .....1
HT 0-0	Gregory 54
	Att 2,882
<b>Scunthorpe</b> .....1	<b>Southend</b> .....0
Madden 11	Att 3,550
HT 1-0	
<b>Wigan</b> .....0	<b>Oldham</b> .....0
HT 0-0	Att 8,817

	HOME						AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	
Burton Albion	30	11	3	2	26	12	9	0	5	15	12	63	
Gillingham	31	12	3	1	33	13	5	4	6	24	24	58	
Walsall	30	7	4	4	20	17	9	5	1	28	14	57	
Wigan	31	9	5	2	27	11	6	6	3	23	18	56	
Coventry	31	9	5	2	34	18	5	5	5	21	15	52	
Millwall	30	6	2	6	18	19	9	3	4	30	19	50	
Southend	30	8	2	5	20	17	5	6	4	21	19	47	
Sheff Utd	30	7	2	6	28	24	5	7	3	18	17	45	
Port Vale	32	8	7	1	23	13	4	2	10	12	23	45	
Peterboro	30	6	4	5	26	24	7	1	7	28	21	44	
Bradford	29	6	4	3	14	11	6	4	6	19	21	44	
Barnsley	30	7	2	6	26	17	6	1	8	23	27	42	
Scunthorpe	29	7	3	5	14	12	5	2	7	20	25	41	
Swindon	31	6	7	2	26	26	5	4	7	20	22	39	
Rochdale	29	7	2	5	21	17	3	5	7	16	23	37	
Bury	29	5	5	3	20	18	5	2	9	16	31	37	
Doncaster	30	5	5	6	20	18	4	4	6	15	22	36	
Blackpool	30	7	3	6	19	16	2	3	9	11	22	33	
Shrewsbury	31	3	2	10	16	23	6	4	6	21	28	33	
Fleetwood Tn	29	5	5	4	22	12	2	4	9	12	25	30	
Chesterfield	30	3	3	9	23	27	6	0	9	15	23	30	
Crews	30	3	5	8	16	29	3	4	7	15	22	27	
Oldham	28	1	4	9	14	28	3	9	2	13	12	25	
Colchester	30	3	5	7	22	29	2	2	11	15	43	22	

## SkyBet League Two

	HOME						AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Northmpton	29	11	1	3	26	12		9	3	2	29	19	64
Plymouth	30	9	2	5	25	16		9	2	2	20	19	59
Oxford Utd	29	6	6	2	20	12		9	4	2	28	15	55
Wycombe	30	6	4	6	20	20		8	3	3	16	9	49
<b>POMPEY</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>48</b>
Acc Stanley	27	7	3	2	26	17		7	3	5	21	15	48
Mansfield	32	5	6	5	22	19		8	3	5	21	18	48
Bristol R	30	6	2	6	18	15		8	3	5	22	17	47
Leyton O	31	7	4	5	25	23		5	6	4	21	22	46
Wimbleton	29	6	3	6	23	21		6	6	2	23	15	45
Cambridge	31	6	3	6	21	24		6	5	5	23	19	44
Carlisle	27	5	4	3	27	20		4	5	4	18	21	42
Exeter	29	5	5	4	21	19		6	2	7	18	22	40
Luton	31	3	5	7	18	22		7	3	6	25	23	38
Crawley	31	7	2	6	16	17		4	2	10	20	35	37
Morecambe	31	5	2	9	25	30		5	4	6	27	27	36
Barnet	29	8	3	3	22	13		2	3	10	16	31	36
Notts Cnty	28	7	2	5	26	24		3	4	7	15	24	36
Stevenage	32	5	5	6	19	24		3	5	8	23	30	34
Newport Co	29	2	6	6	17	23		5	3	7	16	20	30
Hartlepool	27	5	2	8	16	22		3	1	8	10	22	27
Yeovil	30	3	5	6	18	22		2	4	10	13	24	24
York	29	4	3	7	19	26		1	5	9	12	27	23
Dagenham	30	0	4	11	10	28		4	4	7	20	26	20



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